Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 323 | TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

2 file $2.1M lawsuit for alleged forced labor. PAGE 3

Wish comes true for 13-year-old Saipan boy. PAGE 7

**OPINION METER**

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**49 DAYS** without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

**Calif. Aflame**

More than 800 houses, mobile homes and apartments were destroyed by fires in California.

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**Victoria's Secret**

Victoria's Secret's angels have descended upon Miami Beach.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

# Alleged illegal cockfight busted

## Businesswoman exposes illegal operation in San Antonio

Cockfight gaming operator Mary-Ann Calvo yesterday exposed an alleged illegal cockfight gaming operation in San Antonio.

Calvo said she infiltrated the illegal cockfight operation Sunday at the San Antonio beachside pavilion and was surprised to see former congressman Pedro Castro of Precinct 1 present in the area.

Castro is currently a member of the Cockfight Board, said Calvo, who is the owner of Marianas Cockfight, which operates the Saipan Cockpit in Gualo Rai.

*Saipan Tribune* yesterday tried but failed to contact Castro

*See ALLEGED on Page 4*

Children watch a cockfight in this file photo.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Death toll in crash rises to 3

## Critically injured woman in fatal accident dies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The critically injured passenger of the car that slammed into a power pole in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe early Sunday morning succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said Rose Ann O. Bautista, 22, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center at 1am yesterday.

*See DEATH on Page 4*

# 2 AMP meetings discuss fate of IRs

Over 100 people with Immediate Relative status in the CNMI participated in two separate meetings organized by the United Workers Movement NMI and lawyers Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

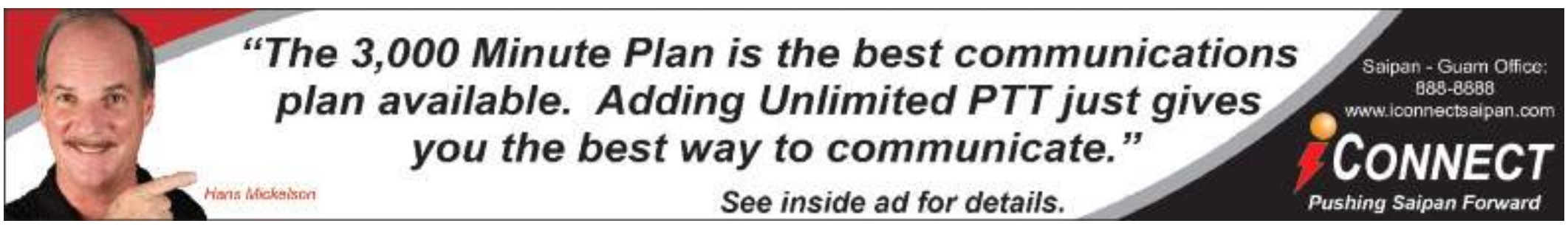
In a meeting at the Visitors' Center Theater, Mailman and Kara discussed the IR status of U.S. citizen spouses when the federal takeover happens on June 1, 2009.

Mailman told the IRs that their chances

*See 2 AMP on Page 4*

People with Immediate Relative status in the CNMI listen to lawyers Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara inside the Visitors' Center Theater at the American Memorial Park.

FERDIE DELA TORRE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# Local

## Still no decision on China, Russia visa waivers

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

CNMI officials are still waiting for word from the Department of Homeland Security on the visa waiver program for Russian and Chinese tourists.

Although the decision was expected by Nov. 4, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said industry partners are anticipating a decision by the end of the month.

After President Bush signed into law legislation federalizing the region's immigration system, CNMI and Guam officials with the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force presented a report to the departments of Homeland Security and Interior outlining the impact of Russian and Chinese tourists on the local economy. Guam officials are pushing for waivers for Chinese tourists, which would open a large new market to the island that currently relies on the Korean and Japanese markets.

China and Russia are critical to the future growth of the CNMI tourism market, the task force report notes.

The impact of losing visa exemptions that have let foreign visitors travel freely to the CNMI and Guam would be staggering, the report shows, costing the islands millions each year. Tourist spending in the CNMI for 2008 is projected to total more than $1 billion with the visa waivers in place, it says. Without them, that figure would drop to about $876 million.

Projected losses to the local tourism market without the waivers are even greater in the future. By 2010, the report says, tourism spending with the waivers in place would reach nearly $2 billion, but would sit at roughly $1.3 billion without them.

The CNMI has already invested $35 million to market itself in China, the report says, which has 36 million outbound travelers each year. Shanghai Airlines recently added charter flights to Saipan and Guangzhou charter flights will resume operation soon.

The Russian market continues to increase under the current immigration system. In October, 392 Russian visitors came to the CNMI—a 102 percent increase since October 2007, according to the MVA. While the number is small compared to other markets, Russian visitors tend to be upper-middle to high class and stay for more than a week at a time. Three new charters flights from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk in eastern Russia will begin service at the end of the year, adding an estimated 450 visitors from Russia.

## Overfishing of tuna in Pacific at issue in Korea conference next week

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The prevalence of overfishing of big-eye tuna juveniles in the Central Western Pacific area will be the main issue during a conference in South Korea next week, according to Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz.

The meeting, which is set on Dec. 8-12 in Busan, South Korea, will map out plans to reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna mortalities.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Sylvan Igisomar and Governor's Office senior policy adviser Rey Mafnas will represent the CNMI.

Igisomar is currently attending the Micronesian Executive Summit in Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia. He is the new chairman of the Regional Invasive Species Committee.

Dela Cruz said overfishing in the region, including the CNMI, has contributed to the declining population of bigeye tuna.

He said problems and issues regarding fisheries will be discussed including the possibility of reducing the volume of catch in each area.

"If they will not limit the catch, it will also contribute to overfishing," he said.

Another issue to be discussed will be bottom trolling.

Palau has already banned this destructive method.

There were proposals to limit by 2,000 metric tons the annual volume of bigeye tuna catch in the CNMI, Palau, Guam and other areas.

"The annual catch limit of 2,000 may be adopted during the conference in Korea," Dela Cruz said.

Earlier, the technical and compliance committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission met on Oct. 2-7 in Pohnpei and drafted the conservation and management measure for bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the area.

Other issues proposed for the meeting in Korea include: vessel monitoring systems requirements, observer program requirements, catch retention, fishery and aquatic development management, a program of work in Indonesia and the Philippines, time and area closures and capacity monitoring.

## Festival of Songs moved to January

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Due to conflicts in schedule, the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture has decided to postpone the Music Festival earlier set for Dec. 5-6.

CCAC acting director Ramona Rebuenog said the event has been moved to January because of similar activities that they will be organizing during the first week of December such as the Christmas exhibit.

She said they are now ready with the exhibit, which will be held the whole month of December.

CCAC had planned the Festival of Music in an effort to revive and promote sounds that people in the Marianas are familiar with. It was supposed to feature past and present musicians in the CNMI.

The pilot project will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia Taitano-Celes said it would be an opportunity to encourage local musicians to improve their craft and hopefully become true professionals.

Some of the legendary musicians in the CNMI that will be featured include former congressman Candy Taman and three members of the board of directors of the Arts Council, David Peter, Joseph Diaz and Joe Limes.

"We would like to gather them into this event and bring them back to sing their songs," she said.

Aside from promoting the Pacific culture, the event is also a way of giving tourists another chance to discover talents and skills in the CNMI in other fields.

Vendors will be allowed to set up stalls but it would be exclusively for those in the business of music or instruments like guitars, ukuleles, organs, and others.

Educational activities related to music such as demonstration and short training will also be a part of the activities.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Happy birthday greetings to Daddy/Grandpa Leo P. Kani! May the Lord bless you with many more! Greetings come from your rascals and grandchildren on Saipan, in Hawaii, Washington, and Virginia.

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# 2 file $2.1M lawsuit for alleged forced labor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two Indian national who claim to be victims of human trafficking and forced labor filed yesterday a $2.1 million lawsuit in federal court against their former employers.

Manoj Kumar Kewlani and Meena Kumari sued Naina Enterprises Inc., its vice president Padma M. Daryanani, president Madhavdas M. Daryanani, and secretary Haresh M. Daryanani.

Naina Enterprises reportedly owns Roshi's Variety Store and Roshi's Market on Saipan, Roshi's on Tinian, and Alsons Store on Rota.

The complainants, through lawyer Mark B. Hanson, sued the defendants for forced labor, human trafficking, unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, breach of contract, fraud, and false imprisonment.

The two asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay them $1 million in compensatory damages and $1 million in punitive damages.

In addition, Kewlani and Kumari demanded $109,828 and $52,256 respectively in compensation for unpaid wages and breach of contract.

*Saipan Tribune* tried but failed to get comments from the defendants.

Hanson stated in the complaint that Kewlani, who is from Rajshian, India, first met Madhavdas in 2000 through a neighbor, who was a former employee of Madhavdas on Saipan. On the other hand, Kumari, who is from Haryana, India, first met Madhavdas and Padma in 2007 through Kumari's uncle, who asked her if she would like to work in the CNMI.

The lawyer said that Madhavdas first asked Kewlani in 2004 if he would like to work for him in the CNMI. Kewlani agreed to do so in 2005.

Hanson said defendants arranged for the entry permit, employment authorization in the CNMI, and transportation to the Commonwealth for the two.

Kewlani arrived on Saipan on Dec. 13, 2005, while Kumari on June 19, 2007.

Hanson said that upon their arrival, the defendants seized the two's passports and have yet to return them.

Kewlani started his employment the following day on Rota, while Kumari began his employment the following day on Saipan.

Hanson said for the next few years, the defendants moved Kewlani between its various business establishments on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

The lawyer said Kewlani's documented job title has always been store manager; however, he has never had any managerial or other supervisory responsibilities.

Kewlani's duties included sales, handling cash, handy work, deliveries, cleaning, packing and unpacking, and loading and unloading freight.

Kumari's documented job title was stock clerk but her duties included sales, cashier, cleaning, packing and unpacking, inventory and ordering additional inventory from other stores.

Most recently, Hanson said, Kewlani and Kumari were working for defendants at their retail establishment in Kagman, Saipan.

The plaintiffs' entry documents stated that they would be paid $3.05 per hour. However, as soon as they arrived, the defendants allegedly informed them they would be paid $100 per month for their services.

Hanson said Kewlani was "given a raise" after one year when his salary was increased to $200 per month.

Kewlani and Kimari, however, never received any of their salaries, he said.

Hanson said the defendants would periodically issue checks to the plaintiffs but either the defendants or one of their employees would escort the two to the bank where the checks were cashed and the money is turned over to the defendants.

He said the only money the two received throughout their employment were small cash advances that would be deducted from their "salary," which they did not receive in any case.

"Kewlani worked seven days per week and anywhere from 12 to 15 hours per day. He never had a day off," Hanson said.

"Kumari worked seven days per week and anywhere from 16 to 17 hours per day. She never had a day off," he said.

During the periods where Kewlani and Kumari were not working at one of the defendants' business establishments, Hanson alleged, they were restricted and confined to their barracks.

The two, he said, were not allowed to go anywhere during non-working hours without the consent of the defendants and without an escort.

Throughout their employment, Hanson said, the defendants would threaten the two that if they fail to work because they are sick, if they are a minute late for work, if they disobey any of directives or if they complain about their working conditions, they would not be paid.

The defendants, Hanson said, also told Kewlani that if he complains, Haresh could get the assistance of the police to enforce the rules as he is "very strong [on] Saipan."

Kewlani and Kumari were unfamiliar with the laws of the U.S. and CNMI. They had no idea where to turn to for help.

Despite being warned by the defendants against such associations, in mid-2007 Kewlani and Kumari befriended another contract worker on Saipan.

Having learned of the extent of Kewlani's plight, the friend suggested that the two seek assistance from the Federal Ombudsman, Hanson said. With the help of the Federal Ombudsman, Kewlani and Kumari were able to escape from their confinement, he added.

The two left their employment on the night of Nov. 11, 2008.

Kewlani's entry permit is due to expire on Dec. 12, 2008.

Kumari's enty permit expired on May 7, 2008. She does not know whether the defendants renewed her entry permit for another year.

Hanson said the defendants informed Kewlani and Kumari that they had cameras in their retail establishments and that the two were under continuous surveillance.

# Saipan postal service sees huge drop in business mails in FY08

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The U.S. Postal Service on Saipan saw a significant drop in mails received in Fiscal Year 2008 covering the period from October 2007 to September 2008.

Postmaster Hector Medina said the decreased volume amounts to about 9 percent and the biggest drop was in business mails.

Medina said the estimated weight of priority mails they received in FY 2008 was 185,000 metric tons. "That is a drop of 9 percent compared to the previous year," he said.

Record showed that between January and October 2007, the total volume was 246,599 lbs.

Medina said the average annual volume of mails they were receiving on a monthly basis in the past was between 8,000 and 10,000 metric tons; at present they only averaged about 4,000-5,000 metric tons.

People prefer the flat rates and there are not that many sending big boxes. The flat rates are those that cost $12.95 and $9.85, and are usually smaller boxes.

He said this is obviously the effect of the economic downtrend, as people spend on other things because of rising prices of power and basic commodities.

"A lot of people are leaving the island but we are just hoping that things will get better for everybody," Medina said.

Last week, the United States Postal Service conducted a meeting with the Postal Service officers among Micronesian countries and territories that included the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands and the four Federated States of Micronesia.

The meeting, which Saipan hosted at the Hyatt Regency, was to prepare for the holiday season.

Medina said there are no special plans for the holidays. "We will continue to provide service to people our usual way," he said.

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# KABA Modern stars want to come back to Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The shining stars of the dance group KABA Modern promised to come back to Saipan some other time after learning how fans here responded to their visit.

The group, which was a finalist in MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew" earlier this year, served as judges in the first ever search for CNMI's Best Dance Crew held Nov. 9 at the jam-packed Marianas High School Gym.

"It's amazing," Cindy Minowa, one of the stars of the group, said after their live performance before close to 2,000 screaming fans that filled the gym to the rafters.

Minowa said it feels great to learn that fans look up to them.

"We have achieved our purpose. We just came from Hawaii and Guam seven hours ago and we're still tired but when you see a lot of fans showing their admiration for us, it really touches your heart and you have to make sure you give them the best performance. And we have done our job well," Minowa said.

"This is something we love to do," she said.

Members of KABA Modern backstage.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Minowa has high respect for all the groups that competed but she said there must be a winner.

She said the champion team, I-Candy, really showed a lot of potential and she expects them to keep improving on their talents and skills.

"They were really so great today," Minowa said.

Another member, Lawrence Kao, said I-Candy is going in the right direction.

"I'm positive they will go a long way and I'm looking forward to seeing them on MTV," he said.

The four other members of the group are Mike Song, Jia Huang, Tony Tran, and Yuri Tag. They came with their manager and founder Arnel Calvario, who also performed with them at the show.

CNMI's best dance crew winner I-Candy and KABA Modern crew joined some 300 special guests at the Club V on Sunday night.

The occasion was to give recognition to all the major donors for the Northern Marianas College.

Ed Arriola Jr., producer of the first ever CNMI's best dance crew competition, said the stars of KABA Modern had promised to come back to Saipan to have another live performance.

But before that, the group will have a tour of Asia in the next few weeks.

Kao said they are invited this week to perform in Hawaii. Their next stop will be South Africa and Japan at the end of this year.

"More and more shows are in the planning stage. We hope to see the fans here again some other chance," Kao said.

# MHS marks National Caregiver Week

Do you know that November is National Home Care Month and National Care Giver Week? At Marianas Health Services Inc., National Caregiver Week is celebrated from Nov. 17 to 21.

This month has been designated each year to thank, support and honor the more than 50,000 family caregivers who currently provide "free" care giving services to homebound families in their homes. On Saipan alone, there are more than 5,000 estimated "informal" (unpaid) caregivers.

"Chances are you may be one of the many who is providing this support for a loved one," said MHS in a statement. "Caregivers play a significant role in the health care delivery system, especially during the times after discharge from the hospital due to an operation, accident or illness. The time has come to acknowledge the influence these caregivers play in providing for the care and advocacy of our loved ones. Only by being educated consumers and remembering our need to care for ourselves as well, will we be best able to continue to be effective caregivers."

MHS sponsored the first 10 Caregivers Recognition Week last year in November 2007, addressing the specific needs of the caregiver, and acknowledging the significant role caregivers play in the CNMI.

"It takes a special someone to be a caregiver. Not everyone is capable, or does it well. Most often, one person alone carries most of the responsibility and burden. It is rare that the primary caregiver's expectations of other family members providing an equal share in the time and work required occurs. "Unfortunately, it frequently remains true that "one mother can take care of 10 children, but 10 children can not take care of one parent." Assistance and relief expected from siblings and other extended family members is not always possible due to different life styles, work commitments and actual geography.

"Sometimes, caregiver responsibilities can become too challenging. It is important to ask for help or seek professional guidance. MHS offer assistance on issues such as depression management, physical fitness programs, and financial planning, among others.

"To our MHS caregivers, we salute you for all your perseverance, commitment, and love you provide each day to our patients—your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa and so on."

For more information on activities throughout the month of November go to www.marianashealth.com or call 233-4646. ***(PR)***

# 2 AMP

*From Page 1*

of getting "green cards" are very good if they just tell the truth.

United Workers Movement MMI president Irene Tantiado told *Saipan Tribune* that during a recent meeting they recognized the need to hold an educational meeting about the IR status of the spouses of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens.

"We've been trying to see if somebody else would come up with a meeting but no one did," Tantiado said.

Recently, Mailman and Kara were holding similar meetings, but on a smaller scale.

"I talked to them and asked them if they want to combine and have one big meeting for everybody. This is the output," Tantiado said.

Since Mailman is an expert in the area of getting "green cards," he is their preference, she added.

Besides Mailman and Kara, Tantiado said they are also talking with a lawyer in Houston and communicating with another lawyer in Guam.

"Each law firm offers a different expertise. As much as possible we want to give people options where they are comfortable," she said.

"I just want to clarify that this is just to educate them on what really is in the law. I know, as I said before, the [federalization] law is not fair to all. Some people might get hurt, some people may benefit. We are here to educate them," Tantiado said.

After the meeting with Kara and Mailman, Tantiado's group and the City Taxi Association of Rabby Syed later held a separate meeting with IR spouses of FAS citizens at the park's Amphitheater.

Critical issues discussed during the meeting include:

■ The proposed amendments to the CNMI immigration system allowing for two-year permits for some categories do not include IRs of FAS citizens. The effective date of the proposed amendments is Jan. 1, 2009. U.S. P.L. 110 – 229 (federalization law) provides that the entry permit will be valid until it expires after June 1, 2009 or two years, whichever is shorter. A two-year permit will give an additional year for the immediate relatives to join the workforce and be part of CNMI-only guest workers program or until a political solution is reached, if any.

■ Petition the FAS government to waive across the board the five-year residency requirement for those IRs who are already on CNMI prior to June 1, 2009 so they can convert their citizenship to FAS.

■ Ask the Department of Homeland Security to give consideration to the IRs of FAS citizens

■ FAS citizens should participate in the efforts to ask the CNMI government to include their IRs in the categories that will allow two-year permits and in seeking a political status for their IRs.

It is estimated that there are 300 FAS citizens who are married to an alien spouses in the CNMI.

As part of the resolution, the group launched a signature campaign that will support the petitions, to be submitted to the CNMI Division of Immigration and the FAS governments. Deadline to submit petition to the CNMI Division of Immigration is Nov. 24, 2008.

FAS citizens who want to join the petition may contact Rabby Syed at 285-3306 or Irene Tantiado at 285-7717 or they may drop by Winchell's Garapan from 6:30pm to 9:30pm every night until Nov. 23.

Mailman said the filing fee to get "green cards" has increased tremendously.

"With the various forms you have to file with the government, the total fee is now $1,365," he said.

The lawyer said a child under the age of 14 does not have to pay the $80 fingerprint photograph fee.

"Add to that, the medical exam. Add to that the cost of getting your certified documents, the police clearance, copies for everything, travel expenses as long as you still have to go to Guam. Add to that is attorney's fees," he said.

Mailman said a single application is going to cost about $3,035. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# ALLEGED

*From Page 1*

for comment.

"I called the Department of Public Safety commissioner and even 911 [to report the illegal operation], but no police officer came," Calvo told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said the area has been notorious for hosting illegal cockfight activities for years now.

Upon being notified of the illegal activity, she said she immediately responded to the scene at 2:50pm Sunday, Nov. 16, and reported the matter to DPS after verifying that there was indeed an illegal cockfight operation.

Calvo said that after more than 30 minutes of delay and with no visible DPS officers in sight, she parked in front of the pavilion area where the illegal gambling activity was being conducted.

Calvo said the scene was teeming with more than 50 participants. At the time, she said, about 25 cars were parked side by side, while men were tying their chickens and getting ready for another round of fighting.

Money transactions were evident too, she noted.

Calvo said she walked straight toward the cockers and warned them of the consequences of their actions.

"This is an illegal cockfight gaming operation! Stop what you are doing," Calvo told the participants.

She said in 10 minutes all the people and the roosters were gone.

She said she spotted Castro in the pavilion.

As a Cockfight Board member, Calvo said, Castro has a fiduciary responsibility to uphold local cockfight gaming rules and regulations.

"But this Sunday, Pedro Castro neglected his duty in that he was visibly sitting in the pavilion, five feet away from the illegal activity," she said.

Calvo said this is a gross dereliction of duty for Castro.

"No wonder these illegal games continue to persist, when a Cockfight Board member is seen supporting these actions," she said.

Calvo said her legitimate business is being robbed of fair profit that she had to legally pay a price for. She said those supporting such illegal activities must be prosecuted.

"These illegal cockfighting activities must be shut down," she said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office authorizes only one person or entity to conduct cockfight operations, based on a public bidding process in accordance with the law.

Calvo said the only authorized licensee to conduct cockfight operation on Saipan is the Saipan Cockpit.

According to the law, "any person or individual who willfully or knowingly violates any provision of the Saipan Cockfighting Act of 1994 or any promulgating rules or regulations is guilty of misdemeanor."

If convicted, the person will be subject to a fine of not more than $600 or imprisonment of not more than three months or both.

"Further, under immigration law, nonresident workers who engage in illegal activities is subject to deportation," Calvo emphasized. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# DEATH

*From Page 1*

Ogumoro said Bautista suffered internal bleeding and other fatal injuries.

Bautista, a waitress at Godfather's Bar, was among the three passengers of the car. She was seated in the back of the vehicle.

The driver, Hydee G. Garcia, 26, also a waitress at Godfather's Club, was pronounced dead at CHC Sunday at 4:16am. She sustained severe head trauma and other fatal injuries.

The front side passenger, Ronald H. Carreon, 35, a computer technician at I-Tech, suffered head trauma and several fatal injuries. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at CHC Sunday at 3:03am.

The only survivor, Joel O. Tagalicud, 30, a guitarist of the band Fat Joy Slim, is currently recuperating from multiple abrasions, lacerations, and bruises to the body. He was seated beside Bautista in the back.

Ogumoro said alcohol and speed were factors in the crash and that all four occupants were not wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident.

The vehicle—a green 1997 Ford Crown Victoria—had extensive damage.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation indicated that Garcia was the cause of the crash.

Ogumoro said that on Sunday at 2:06am DPS received a report of an auto crash that occurred along Beach Road in Susupe near the Joeten Shopping Center.

Traffic and patrol unit officers were dispatched to the scene. Medics and traffic investigators also responded.

Ogumoro said the investigation showed that the vehicle was traveling north on the outer lane along Beach Road in front of the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

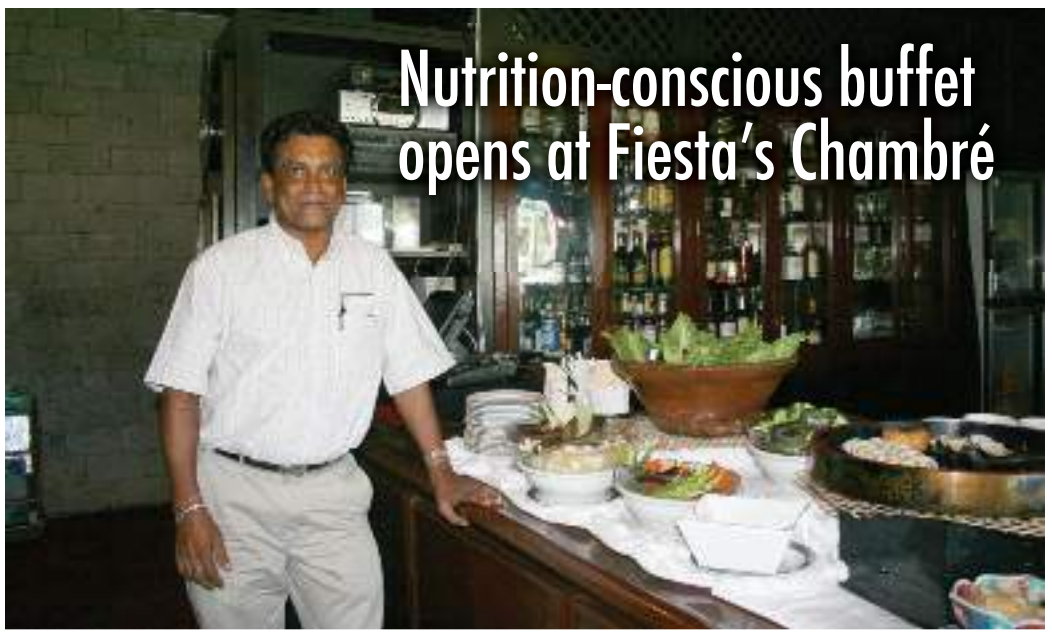
Garcia, the driver, lost control of the vehicle and the car veered sharply to the right.

As a result, the car went off the main road and collided with a Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power pole located on the shoulder along the Nauru traffic signal light intersection, according to Ogumoro.

"The weather was cloudy and the road surface, including the shoulder, was dry," she said.

Garcia, Carreon, and Bautista are the sixth, seventh and eight fatalities of vehicular accidents in the CNMI this year. All deadly crashes happened on Saipan.

# Nutrition-conscious buffet opens at Fiesta's Chambré



KRISTI EATON

Das Krishnan, food and beverage manager at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, stands by the Healthy Lunch Buffet he created to offer more healthy options to Saipan residents and tourists.

**By KRISTI EATON**
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Health conscious eaters—or those hoping to become health conscious—have one more place where they can get their daily allotment of fruits and vegetables.

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan yesterday launched their Healthy Lunch Buffet, offering an assortment of nutritious foods at lunchtime. While the buffet is geared toward local residents, tourists are also invited to take part.

**BASIC INFO**

- **What:** Fiesta Resort's Healthy Lunch Buffet
- **Where:** Chambre Bar
- **When:** Monday-Friday, 11am to 1:30pm
- **Price:** $5.99 (adult and child) for locals; $11.99 (adult and children over 4 years old) for visitors. Children under 3 free)

Das Krishnan, Fiesta's food and beverage manager, said his goal in opening the buffet was to promote healthy living to the people of the CNMI. With the high rate of diabetes in the Commonwealth, it's important to focus on nutritious foods, he said, adding that all of the foods he uses are low in sugar and salt.

Krishnan said he is meeting with local nutritionists to learn more about healthy eating approaches. And he invites customers to offer suggestions as well.

"For any business you have to listen to your customers," he said. "That's what I'm looking at."

The menu will change every day. At yesterday's buffet, an array of cold and hot food was offered along with veggies and fruits.

Some of the items included: sunomono, sushi rolls, kimchi, Korean soba, mahi mahi teriyaki and black rice.

Yesterday's opening was by invitation only. Krishnan said he hopes about 30 people would take part in the buffet each day.

"I'm not expecting people to come every day. Maybe once a week or two weeks," he said.

Valet service is offered to make dining convenient, he added.

Krishnan is also working on concocting his own fresh juices.

# Pepsi launches safe driving program for 2008 holidays

In an effort to eliminate drunk driving this holiday season, Pepsi will be initiating the Pepsi's Drive Safe Holiday Program. The program will run from Nov. 21, 2008, until Jan. 4, 2009, and will be offered to all on-premise establishments. All bars and restaurants participating in the program will receive an entrance door placard identifying them as a partner in the Pepsi Drive Safe Holiday Program as well as establishment-wide awareness signage and reminders.

The Pepsi Drive Safe Holiday Program will encourage customers to sign up as a sober alcohol-free designated driver in exchange for complimentary Pepsi or bottled water, provided by Pepsi Distributor Pacific Trading Company. Posters as well as table tents will carry the campaign message "Pepsi reminds you to Drive Safe. Be a Designated Driver." All participating bars will be provided "Pepsi Drive Safe" wristbands.

Customers who wish to participate in the program can simply tell the bartender or server that they are a designated driver. Customers will then be asked to sign a pledge sheet and will receive a "Pepsi Drive Safe" wristband identifying them to servers and bartenders and entitling them complimentary Pepsi products or Aquafina water.

For additional information on the Pepsi Drive Safe Holiday Program, contact Glen Hunter at 670-322-6624. The Pepsi Drive Safe Holiday Program is open to all on-premise (bar and restaurant) locations in Saipan. Pepsi reminds everyone to enjoy the holidays with a designated driver. Pepsi is a registered trademark of PepsiCo Inc. ***(PR)***

# $300K OK'd for Saipan infrastructure projects

**By KRISTI EATON**
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has signed into law a measure appropriating more than $300,000 in developer taxes for various Saipan infrastructure projects.

Fitial signed House Bill 16-165 into law Nov. 14, making it Public Law 16-22.

The new law appropriates $367,000 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund. The money is distributed as follows:

- $86,000 to pave the student parking lot at Kagman High School and the faculty and staff parking areas at Koblerville Elementary School. The secretary of Public Works, working with the affected principals has expenditure authority.
- $15,000 for the rehabilitation of the Kagman II baseball field. The Department of Public Works' secretary has expenditure authority.
- $10,000 for improvement and upkeep of the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, which the executive director of Veterans Affairs has expenditure authority over.
- $107,000 for paving and drainage improvement of the Tangantangan Road. The secretary of the Department of Public Works has expenditure authority.
- $104,000 to upgrade water lines in Dandan under the authority of the executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
- $45,000 to pave the coral road at Northern Marianas College. The president of NMC has expenditure authority.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Drawings every Friday until 19 December 2008. Text as many times as you like. Weekly winners will be eligible for Grand Prize drawing of roundtrip tickets for 2 to Manila.
10¢ charge per each text message sent.
Conditions to apply.

* Receive one entry form for every new postpaid phone activation up to 24 December 2008. Must be at least 18 years old to qualify. Conditions to apply. Winners to be announced 26 December 2008.
**Some Conditions apply. Applies to New Activations with a 24 month agreement required. Offer valid till December 31, 2008 or while supplies last".

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# Glazer-Church, Fitial, Valenzuela are tops at DES

### Teacher of the Year

Elizabeth Glazer-Church, a third grade teacher at the Dandan Elementary School, is this year's Teacher of the Year nominee.

Glazer-Church

Church has been with the Public School System since 1997 after arriving from Washington State. A graduate with a BA degree from Central Washington University in 1996, she was inspired by a Saipan recruiter to teach here on Saipan. She started her career at Tanapag Elementary School in 1997 and Kagman Elementary School in 1999 before joining the "Mighty Totto Team" in 2000.

Her love for teaching and helping each and every children who walks into her classroom every school year speaks of her commitment, dedication, passion, love, and care for the learning of each child. She first taught 5th grade for three years. Since then, she started teaching third grade.

Church is well liked by her students, staff and parents. She has the attitude of a peacebuilder and has been actively involved with the many school activities such as the Young Author's Fair, Science Fair, Christmas program, Cultural Day Festival, Project Familia, PREL-REL Project Focus on Reading, curriculum mapping, Reading Renaissance, ELL, Accelerated Math, Ethics Codes, Direct Instruction, Accreditation as a FOCUS Chair, PTA secretary, Master Teacher for students from the University of Guam and the Northern Marianas College for six years, DES Assessment Leadership Team, just to name a few. She has continued to expand her horizon by attending various statewide PDs and school live in-service trainings to upgrade her teaching practices. With the demand by the BOE and NCLB, she recognizes the implementation of the Four Strategic Priorities as a guide to nurture every child in her class as well as our mission, vision, and ESLRS.

Church is young, smart, dynamic, highly motivated, and full of energy each day that she begins her daily class routine. She sets high standards in all aspects to helping each child achieve their goal to become competent, literate, fluent and proficient in all subject areas, specifically achieving high standards at SBA, SAT 10, RFA/RDA, and BRI assessments.

Church possesses a love for reading. She is known at school for her soft voice, which captures each child's attention to listen and enjoy the love of reading in the classroom. Her current and former students continue that legacy of enjoying reading that she has built in every child that enters her class.

Great classroom management impacts positive student learning. Everyday her students look forward to coming to her class wanting to learn. Her performance records speak only of a high degree of professionalism. She was selected as Dandan Elementary School Teacher of the Year because of her huge contribution to the school, students, teachers, staff, parents, administration, and the community at large. Church is role model to many. She believes in improving herself by attending statewide professional development, school in-service training, and surfing the Internet for more teaching strategies and other resources that she may need to help equip her so she is able to deliver effective and efficient instruction. Her eagerness and willing to learn is very evident, that is why she is the best candidate for DES this school year.

### Teacher Aide of the Year

DJ Fitial, Special Education teacher assistant at Dandan Elementary School, was unanimously nominated by his colleagues at DES as this year's Teacher Aide of the Year.

Fitial

Fitial joined the Home of the Tottots since 2003. It's is because of his active involvement in the school's leadership, events, activities, and his excellent work attitude, professionalism, and going beyond the call of duty that makes him the best candidate this year. The Home of the Tottots is proud of Fitial because he has contributed to the many successes of our school, most especially in sports and the children in the SPED Program. PSS and the children benefit from his excellent work attitude and love for helping others. He is a treasure, a good leader and a great staff that we would not want to give away.

Fitial's involvement is many. He has helped our Tottot team in soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track and field win many championship games. Our trophy case in the cafeteria will attest to his excellent coaching ability.

Aside from coaching the students every after school, he also puts time to help cover classes when teachers are absent, run the Fitness Day every Friday, help with the DES STUCO organization, accreditation process, Culture Day, Book Fair, Easter event, Christmas event, STUCO dances, Science Fair, PTA meetings, and PTA fundraising event.

He enjoys learning and updating himself with the new trends in education by attending all the PSS-wide PDs, Sped PDs, and school level in-service training. For the most part, Fitial is assigned to work with a special child on a daily basis. The child has a severe physical disability but Fitial is able to remain positive and patient with the child and, despite the difficult task he is faced with, he continues to be of service and help to other students. This clearly speaks of his dedication to his job and his special students.

Fitial has also chaired several school functions and others fundraising activities. He is an asset to the school, an individual who never complains but focuses on making sure that the job is done. He is a doer. He is well liked and respected by his student, all DES students and the entire teaching staff and parents of DES.

### Support Staff of the Year

If you want an effective and efficient school operation, Abel Valenzuela is the man for the job. Again, Valenzuela is this year's Support Staff of the Year because of his job performance throughout the school year. He is always there when the staff needs his help.

The staff nominated Valenzuela again because of many good factors. He is very committed and dedicated to his job. He is the first person to school and the last to leave. He keeps and maintains our campus and restrooms, ensures that all lightings, facilities, air-conditioning, and water in the classrooms are up and running. He attends every PTA, staff, accreditation, leadership team meeting and other various school events and functions. He attends the statewide PDs and in-service training to help him upgrade his learning in every aspect.

Valenzuela has many great qualities, hence the staff unanimously voted for him. He doesn't complain even if he is tasked to do several jobs. He maintains his work ethics and gets the job done. He makes certain that he will complete the task in a timely manner.

He also recognizes the PSS Four Strategic Priorities: High Student Performance, Safe and Orderly Schools, Smooth School Operation, and Quality Teachers, Staff and Administration. In order to carry out the above priorities effectively and efficiently, one has to make sacrifices not for what it is worth but for what needs to be done. He even sacrifices his valuable time after work and during weekends to help with several of our functions and activities. He is a very dedicated person who spends his valuable time away from his family or home obligations to make sure that the school is ready for operation the next day.

We truly believe that he deserves this year's overall Support Staff of the Year award because of his outstanding hard work and dedication to the school and the system, years of work experience, and excellent work performance and relationship with others despite the painful austerity measures he had to go through for months. Despite that, he was still able to perform to high standards. Valenzuela is the perfect candidate for this award. His commitment to the system, faculty, administration, students, parents, and the community speaks of his commitment, dedication, devotion and love for his job and the children under our care. ***(DES)***


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB09-TDOC-022**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2008 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERSE, TINIAN BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ **JOSE P. SAN NICHOLAS**
Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S



**CNMI Water Task Force**

**ITB09-GOV-021**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **November 17,2008.**

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **December 1, 2008**

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Lease of Warehouse", ITB09-GOV-021**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, December 10, 2008** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the **BID** if preference claimed.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



**DISCONNECTION NOTICE**

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on November 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before November 20th.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.**

Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than November 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4PTI (4784)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

PTI

# Wish comes true for 13-yr-old Saipan boy

**TAMUNING, Guam**—The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam granted its 174th wish this past weekend to 13-year-old Saipan resident Franklin Ebuen.

Franklin and his family traveled to Guam for the weekend, with Foundation board members and Saipan residents Kathryn Barry and Vicky Benavente present at the airport to send Franklin and family off.

Before leaving, a group of Saipan employees from the Transportation Security Administration presented Franklin with a gift bag from TSA and their best wishes for his trip to Guam. TSA is always there to send off Saipan Wish Kids with a special token to remember their trip.

"As always, I'd like to thank our many donors whose continuous support makes wishes like Franklin's come true," Barry said. "I'd also like to say a special thank you to the immigration folks in Guam and Saipan as well as Continental Airlines for making our wish family feel so special."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Franklin Ebuen, center, stands backstage with the "America's Best Dance Crew" in Guam.

Benavente added: "On behalf of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, we are happy to have assisted in this wish. The proceeds from our annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic are used specifically to grant wishes for children from the CNMI."

Franklin was provided a hotel room courtesy of Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. His wish day was spent shopping for a new laptop, a Sony PSP, video games and clothes. Foundation executive director Victor Camacho escorted Franklin and his family on the shopping spree.

"This and all our other wishes are only made possible through the generous support we receive from our community partners in Guam and the CNMI," said Camacho.

RunTings Unlimited, producers of the Music, Dance & Wishes II event, featured three dance crews from the hit MTV series America's Best Dance Crew. Franklin was invited to a private autograph session and to watch the performance as a VIP on Saturday. He joined the crews backstage after their performances and spent some time getting to know all the members of Kaba Modern, Boogie Bots and Fanny Pack. Each crew had a little gift especially for Franklin knowing it was his wish day.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. The Guam chapter has been in existence for 22 years servicing children throughout Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. For more information contact the Foundation office at 649-9474 or send an email to mawfguam@ite.net. ***(MAWF)***

# SHRM sets grand finale fundraiser at '360' resto

The CNMI Chapter for Society for Human Resource Management will be having their grand finale fundraiser for the year at the Revolving Restaurant 360 on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008.

Twenty-percent of all lunch and dinner sales at the Revolving Restaurant 360 will be donated to SHRM. All the proceeds received from the fundraiser will go toward the projects to advance the human resources profession as well as the 2009 Scholarship Program.

"We usually offer two $500 scholarships, but we hope to increase either the scholarship amount or the number of recipients," SAID Fundraising/Scholarship Program chair Polly Deleon Guerrero.

Revolving Restaurant 360 is located on the 8th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly known as the Nauru Building). SHRM is asking for everyone's support by having lunch or dinner at the Revolving Restaurant 360 on Nov. 19, 2008. Lunch hours are 11am-2pm and dinner is 5pm-10pm. For more information, contact Deleon Guerrero at shrm.cnmi@gmail.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 200,000 individual members, the Society's mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive resources available.

The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

# Nov. 27 is 'Feed Saipan Thursday'

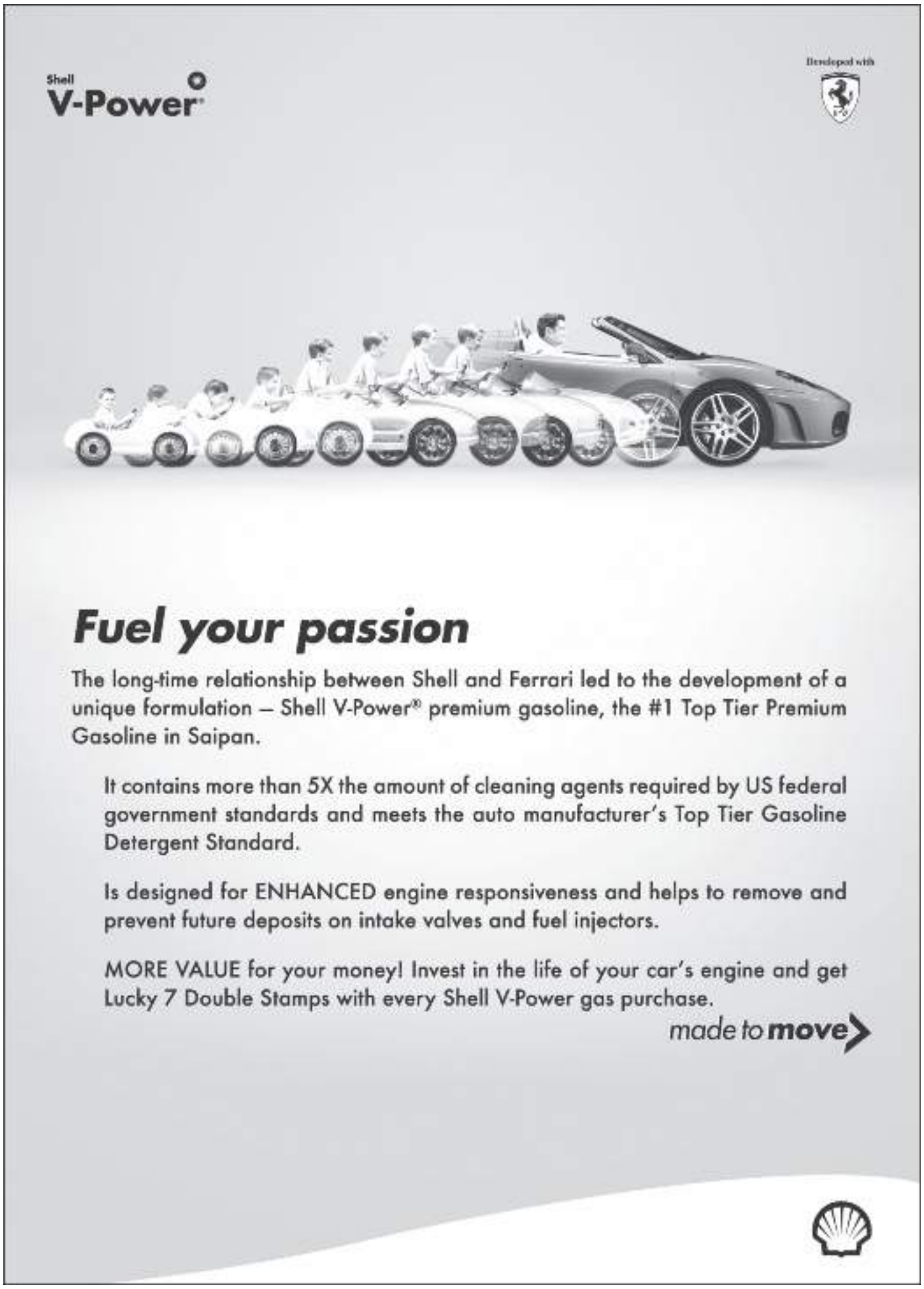
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will sign a mayoral proclamation tomorrow, Nov. 19, 2008, at 10am to designate Nov. 27, as "Feed Saipan Thursday" in the Municipality of Saipan.

Traditionally during this time of year, Tudela solicits food and clothing donations that will be turned over to Karidat Social Services on this day to remember the homeless, hungry and the needy. Powdered and liquid milk are highly appreciated.

Tudela also encourages Saipan residents to fast for two-full meals on this day, and money set aside to buy for one meal can be donated to Karidat to assist needy residents.

All food and clothing donations can be delivered to the Saipan Mayor's Office below the Department of Labor in San Antonio on or before Nov. 27, 2008.

For more information about donating, call Tony A. Benavente at 234-6208 or 6280. All generous donations are greatly appreciated. ***(PR)***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# 20 students finish vocational nursing

REY BELGADO

The new nurses recite the Nurses' Oath, led by Gayline Blau, NP during the graduation ceremony held Nov. 15, 2008, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

The first group of 20 locally-educated and trained vocational nurses inched closer to a career in the healthcare sector after completing Emmanuel College's 11-month accelerated LVN Program.

The students were conferred their certificates of completion during a two-part program that combined the traditional pinning ceremony for nurses and the graduation ceremony at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa on Nov. 15, 2008.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivered the keynote message.

"You are now on your way to a satisfying career serving others. You are now ready to live up to the theme of this program: 'Nursing: Caring, Compassion & Commitment.' Your skills are in very high demand, both here and abroad, and especially in the United States," Fitial told the graduates.

Touted as one of the most financially rewarding professions in the world today, nursing does not only offer an immense employment opportunity but also presents exceptional financial and professional advantages.

The average licensed nurse in the U.S. earns between $43,370 and $63,360 a year—some even earn as much as $71,000 to $113,000 a year. The majority of nursing jobs come with good benefits as well. Also, in an effort to attract and retain more nurses, many employers offer bonuses, as well as family-friendly work schedules and subsidized training.

Fitial said Saturday night's event illustrates the potentials for an education industry in the Northern Marianas. "The college shows that the islands can have a viable education industry. We just need to convince federal policymakers to allow us to bring in foreign students, teachers, and investors to put everything together. "

Sedy Demesa, founder and chair of Emmanuel College board of trustees, said the graduation marked many significant beginnings in the graduates' individual lives while putting the CNMI on the global education map.

"Our graduating students are now armed with an American education that integrates the professional content and the humanistic value of the nursing profession. Our graduates will leave Emmanuel College equipped with the skills and technical knowledge grounded on a set of universal human values of kindness, concern and compassion," Demesa said.

She recalled that they were met with skepticism when they first presented the idea of introducing the abridged vocational nursing program in the Northern Marianas.

"Many thought it was not feasible and was simply unworkable. But we were undeterred by the skepticism because, as there were many who didn't believe it will happen, there were twice as many who rallied behind our efforts to bring American nursing education closer to the people of the CNMI and its neighboring countries in the Asia-Pacific Region," she added.

Emmanuel College's Vocational Nursing program is approved and accredited by the CNMI Board of Nursing for a total of 1,564 hours of theory and clinical training for entry-level employment in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

The Vocational Nursing Program is completed in 11 months after which a graduate can take the state or national licensure examination. A Licensed Vocational Nurse may also be called a Licensed Practical Nurse. An LVN can work in a hospital, long-term care facility, convalescent home, doctor's office or surgical center, providing many of the same services also performed by Registered Nurses.

LVNs can specialize in a field of medicine that is most interesting to them. LVNs are in very high demand in long-term care facilities or nursing homes, and are frequently paid more for taking these positions, so those who specialize in geriatrics find employment easily.

Graduates of Emmanuel College's LVN Program may either obtain employment immediately after passing the NCLEX or pursue their RN degree or both. ***(PR)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Events at Sr. Remedios School

Upcoming events at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center:

Nov. 19, 2008 Pizza night
Nov. 21, 2008 Last day to turn in canned goods for food drive
Nov. 22, 2008 Rummage sale (school porch) ***(PR)***

### Chacha Ocean View sets Open House

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will having an Open House on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 2pm to 4pm, to distribute 1st Quarter report cards. This day will be half-day for students. They will be released at 12:15pm. For more information, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

### Open House at Hopwood

Hopwood Jr. High School's Report Card Day/Open House will be this Friday, Nov. 21, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Report cards will be picked up from student homerooms. Students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

### CAO seeks vendors for cultural show

The Carolinian Affairs Office, in cooperation with the Refaluwasch Genealogy Society, is seeking proposals for the development and operation of a cultural show to include Carolinian culture at the Carolinian utt in Garapan. Interested tourism vendors are invited to attend a meeting on Dec. 5, 2008 at 3pm at CAO to discuss requirements. For more information, contact CAO at (670) 234-6385.

### KHS calendar of activities

The following is the calendar of activities for Kagman High School:

■ KHS Report Card Day: This is inform all parents and guardians of Kagman High School students that the 1st quarter report card for school year 2008-2009 is set for Thursday, Nov. 20, from 4pm to 6pm. Report cards will be distributed to the students during their 1st period class. Please go to your child's 1st period classroom.

■ KHS PTSA meeting: All parents and guardians are informed of the November PTSA meeting set for Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 at Kagman High School, from 6pm to 7pm.

For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

### PTA meeting at SSHS

To all parents and guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6pm in the cafeteria. Also, report cards will be issued from 4pm to 7pm in the Counseling Office. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. ***(PR)***

### Holiday Artists Sale reservations

Spaces are beginning to fill up for the 4th Annual Holiday Artists Sale, which will be held at the Multi-purpose Center on Nov. 29-30. Those who would like to participate may reserve space by contacting Katharyn Tuten-Puckett (tutenpuckett@yahoo.com) or Jeanne Rayphand (jeanneesq@yahoo.com). Reservation fee is $25 for one space; $15 for each additional space. ***(PR)***

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### November 18, 1999

**Teno, senators bicker over scholarship funds**

Legislators and administration officials appear headed into a major collision over the local scholarship program in the wake of aggressive campaign by the Senate to slash the proposed budget from non-essential services to boost its funding. A group of senators met the other day with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and some of his staff to discuss several issues, among them the plan by the Legislature to increase appropriation for the scholarship program under the FY 2000 spending package.

**DPH wants Tanapag residents tested**

The Department of Public Health has asked the Agency for Toxic Disease Registry to carry out an extensive medical testing in Tanapag amid fears that residents may have been affected by the cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Based on the preliminary review of the people's medical records in Tanapag, the Commonwealth Health Center has seen an increase in incidence of cancer cases and chromosomal abnormalities among the residents, said DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

### November 18, 2002

**Medical emergency fails to nudge issuance of rebate**

The continuing saga relating to the non-issuance of tax rebates has not spared even a family that has ties to the Babauta administration, after appealing in vain for the immediate release of their money due to a medical necessity. Like the many taxpayers who have yet to receive theirs, the couple has their own tale to tell. Alvin J.U. Hofschneider-brother of Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider-and his wife Louise recently asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta in a letter for the urgent release of their rebate for the medical expenses needed by their teenage daughter, who was diagnosed to have a heart ailment. Like most, the couple has so far failed.

**Private firm spends $100K to ship off Saipan junk**

A private company has shipped out a total of some 6,000 tons of Saipan's discarded heavy equipment and metal scraps in an effort to promote a clean island environment. Kenji Ito of KP Company Limited, which initiated the free collection and disposal of the heavy metal junk this year, said this is just is part of the firm's public service in the CNMI.

### November 18, 2003

**New Senate majority emerges**

A group of five senators who have emerged as the new majority in the upper house yesterday passed a resolution suspending senators David M. Cing, Pete P. Reyes, Thomas P. Villagomez and Ramon S. Guerrero for a period of 30 days for alleged violation of the CNMI Constitution and the Official Rules of the Senate. The suspension came following the group's decision--made up of senators Paul A. Manglona, Joaquin G. Adriano, Diego M. Songao, Paterno S. Hocog and Joseph Mendiola--to adopt a new set of Senate rules that essentially amended the required number of votes to achieve a suspension, from seven to five.

**'Suspension leaves Saipan without any representation in the Senate'**

As far as Sen. Pete Reyes' bloc is concerned, Pam Brown's nomination for the Attorney General portfolio had already been rejected by the Senate, and it could not be revived. Reyes made this clear yesterday amid reports about the confirmation of Brown by five senators in a Senate session on Rota.

### November 18, 2004

**FSF to bite into family budgets**

Commonwealth residents may have to forego the traditional Christmas lights this December, as they face an almost certain implementation of a 3.5-cent fuel surcharge next month and an additional 2 cents per kwh by January. This early, Saipan households are planning to cut down on power consumption, in the hope of lessening the impact of the fuel surcharge on their budget.

# Essay, elocution contest on MLK Day being readied

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The African-American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan announced this week that it is now ready to accept interested students who want to join the upcoming Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Essay and Elocution Contest 2009.

For the third time on Jan. 19, the AACPC will commemorate MLK Day since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a bill enacting MLK Jr. Day as an official CNMI holiday.

**CONTACT INFO**

For more information, contact:
- Samuel Joyner
- Ambrose Bennett (Kagman Elementary School)
- Walt Goodridge
- Hilda Joyner (Chacha Oceanview Junior High)
- mlikcontest@welovesaipan.com

Next year's theme would be "What Would Martin Say?" in obvious reference to the recent victory of America's first black President, Barrack Obama.

For more information, interested students who may wish to join may contact the following: Samuel Joyner, Ambrose Bennett (Kagman Elementary School); Walt Goodridge, Hilda Joyner (Chacha Oceanview Junior High) or you may send a message to mlikcontest@welovesaipan.com.

Goodridge said he expect 20 to 30 entrants across all grade levels, just like in the past two years.

Contestants must give their ideas on what civil rights leader Martin Luther King would say about Obama's victory.

"What would he say to the American people, to the world, to president Obama himself?"

The essay must be relevant to the theme, double-spaced, typed, 12 font size, in legible writing, and must include the student's name, school, grade, grade level, teacher's name and principal's name.

Each school is allowed to submit three entries per grade level category:
- 3rd to 5th, 150-250 words
- 6th to 8th, 250-350 words
- 9th to 12th, 350-500 words

One winner will be selected for each grade level, with the three overall winners to get $100 each.

Also during the January celebration, the Freedom Fighter Award will be handed out, honoring youth as well as adults, to be presented at the American Memorial Park.

The deadline for submission of entries is on Dec. 15.

**LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Members of the Saipan Municipal Leadership Memorial Courtyard Task Force meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Nov. 14, 2008, to update the governor on the progress of Saipan's first local leadership memorial project at the historic Chalan Kanoa Roundhouse, which will be dedicated to past and contemporary leaders of Saipan. Seated from left, Councilman Felipe Q. Atalig, Fitial and chairwoman Antonia M. Tudela. Standing from left, Martin A. Sablan, DPW- Building Code director; Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, DLNR Secretary; William Torres, Leadership consultant; Diego M. Songsong, DPW Secretary; Efrain Guerrero, DLNR- Land Registration and Survey Division; Vice Chair/Secretary Ramon B. Camacho; Vicente Borja, acting director, Division of Agriculture; Jean Sablan; Vince Torres, DPL- Planning Division; and Victorino C. Deleon Guerrero, DLNR-Forestry Division. Back row from left, Herman C. Tudela, Historic Preservation Office; Eugene Borja, DPW-Technical Services Division; John D. Palacios, Historic Preservation Office; Jack Songsong, DLNR- Director of Land Registration and Survey; and Jude Dickinson, DPL- Planning Division.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BAPTISM**

Baby Jared Coby Carreon Villagomez, son of Jacob Villagomez and Rita Carreon, is shown here before his baptism on Nov. 8, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Birthday greetings go out to Levonnie Delia N. Pua, who is celebrating her second birthday today, Nov. 18. "Happy birthday Levonnie and God bless you always." Greetings come from your Dad, Mom, brother, sisters and your entire family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Cessa, who is celebrating her 15th birthday. "We love and miss you very much!" Love, Dad, Mom, and John.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Two years after riot, Tonga projects to begin

**NUKUALOFA, Tonga** (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The groundbreaking ceremony to officially mark the commencement of the Nuku'alofa reconstruction will be held today, Nov. 18—over two years after the riots and fires that destroyed buildings on November 16, 2006.

Tukua Tonga, the head of the Planning and Urban Management Division of the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, said it had not been confirmed whether HM King George Tupou V will officiate at the ceremony to be held at the old TCF site opposite EM Jones Ltd. store on Taufa'ahau Rd.

After the groundbreaking ceremony the work will begin with sealing off the construction sites for security and safety reasons, and the first work will be the excavation for the drainage.

Tukua said they will first seal off the TCF site and will confirm later in the week from the Ministry of Works, what will happen to the remains of the two-story Taumoepeau Building on Hala Fatafehi.

"That building will take a lot of work since it has to be demolished," he added.

The construction of facilities for a modern Nuku'alofa Central Business District is largely funded by a 120 million pa'anga [US$58.8 million] loan from China and other loans to the Tonga government for civic works and the rebuilding of businesses.

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## CPA Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, November 21, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
Port of Saipan's Conference Room, Captain George F. Fleming Building

**AGENDA**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (Oct. 24 & Nov. 8, 2008)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Rota Runway CM Selection
2. Food and Beverage RFP at Rota International Airport
3. SIA Runway Rehab. CM Services Selection
4. Request for break in rental (Tandem Skydiving)

VII. NEW BUSINESS
5. SIA Runway Rehab. A&E Amendment 9
6. Non-tank Vessel Response Plans
7. Adoption of Seaport and Airport Resolutions re: Bond Indenture/Rate Increases
8. Board Committee Organization
9. Grant of Public Domain
10. RFP for Seaport Properties
11. North Seaplane Ramp Potential Lease Proposal
12. Emergency Repairs of Air Traffic Control Tower
13. Appointment of Comptroller
14. Renewal of POI's Lease Agreement (Office Space)

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
November 18, 2008

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 08-02**

**POSITION:** **Official Court Reporter**
**CLASS LEVEL:** CR-00 Level 1 through CR-00 Level 5
**SALARY RANGE:** $61,543 - $73,852, Plus 25% COLA subject to change, Plus transcript fees ($76,928 - $92,315 inclusive of COLA, Plus transcript fees)
**CLOSING DATE:** Open Until Filled - Apply Now (Position becomes available January 5, 2009)

***DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:***
An Official Court Reporter performs court reporting services for any judicial proceeding as may be required. The position requires the ability to record and transcribe verbatim testimony of courtroom proceedings, to read back all or any portions of the court records, to work well under pressure, to work extended court and transcription production hours within strict time limitations.

Official Court Reporters report directly to the Clerk of Court and Chief Deputy Clerk. Official Court Reporters must adhere to the requirements of the Court Reporter Management Plan of this District and maintain accurate, legible records which are subject to audit. This position involves completing record-keeping forms, documenting the information contained in reports, as well as maintaining and safeguarding records until their disposition according to the statutory requirements and Judicial Conference policy.

***REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:***
Applicants shall possess as a minimum requirement at least four years of prime court reporting experience in the free lance field of service or in other courts or a combination thereof, and have qualified by testing for listing on the registry of professional reporters of the National Court Reporters Association or passed an equivalent qualifying examination. Computer-Aided Transcription (CAT) and Realtime certification preferred.

***SALARY LEVELS AND SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:***
Court Reporter salary levels are determined as follows. NCRA certifications may be substituted with equivalent certification as defined by the United States Courts (add 25% COLA to salaries shown below):
**Level 1** ($61,543) - Must possess four years of court reporting experience in the freelance field of service in other courts or a combination thereof; and be an NCRA Registered Professional Reporter (RPR).
**Level 2** ($64,620) - Must possess ten (10) years of court reporting experience for a United States District Court, time spent serving in a United States District Court as a contract or per diem reporter may be credited toward this ten-year requirement; or be an NCRA Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).
**Level 3** ($67,697) - Must be either an NCRA Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR); or possess ten (10) years of court reporting experience for a United States District Court (as in Level 2) and be a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).
**Level 4** ($70,774) - Must be a Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) with either: ten (10) years of reporting experience for a United States District Court (as in Level 2), or Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).
**Level 5** ($73,852) - Must be a Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR); and have ten (10) years of reporting experience for a United States District Court (as in Level 2); and be a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR).

Applicants who are non-United States citizens must meet the requirements for federal employment. Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position. As a condition of employment, the selected candidate will be subject to an FBI background check. Employment will be considered provisional until the FBI background check is completed. This position is subject to a one year probationary period. Additionally, all court employees are ***at will***, and therefore an employee may be removed from this position at any time if, after reasonable experience, the employee fails to perform at a satisfactory level. The Court requires employees to adhere to a Code of Ethics and Conduct. Electronic direct deposit of salary payments is mandatory.

The court reserves the right to modify the conditions of this job announcement, to hire a qualified applicant and close this vacancy at any time, or to withdraw the job announcement. Interested applicants should submit as soon as possible: a cover letter, current resume, and a photocopy of professional certifications to:

**United States District Court for the**
**Northern Mariana Islands**
**2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building**
**P. O. Box 500687**
**Saipan, MP 96950**
**Attn: Galo L. Perez, Clerk of Court**

*The United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

## Obama's missile gap

Russia didn't waste any time in putting President-elect Barack Obama on notice. A day after the election, President Dmitry Medvedev renewed Russian warnings that he would base short-range Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad, on the border of Poland, if the U.S. proceeds with plans to base a missile defense system in Europe, with the hardware in Poland and the Czech Republic. And this week, the Kremlin rejected new proposals put forward by the Bush administration to assuage concerns that the system could be used to neutralize Russia's nuclear arsenal.

U.S. missile defense hawks responded that Medvedev's threat, coming on the heels of Russia's war with U.S.-allied Georgia, makes it essential for Obama to prove his mettle against an emboldened Kremlin and press ahead with a system to protect Europe and the United States against long-range missiles from Iran.

Obama should not react to the rhetoric from either quarter, but he should reconsider missile defense on its merits—or lack thereof. The president-elect rightly is skeptical of the defense shield, given that it doesn't yet work and it's intended to defend against nuclear-tipped Iranian missiles that don't yet exist. Although Iran has tested long-range missiles that could reach southern Europe, some security analysts believe the country is merely saber-rattling, because an Iranian attack on Europe, or even Israel, would be met with such force as to be suicidal. Meanwhile, the proposed missile shield has driven an unnecessary wedge between Moscow and much of the rest of Europe.

Even before Medvedev's comments, there was no guarantee Obama would continue on the missile shield track. Congress has yet to fund it, with cost estimates ranging from $4 billion to $10 billion a year for five years, and Obama may not have the money in the midst of an economic crisis.

One of Obama's senior defense advisers is former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn, who has criticized the Bush administration for increasing tensions with Russia by backing NATO membership for Poland and Ukraine, on Russia's border. This, and the defense shield, have fueled Russia's fears that the United States means to surround it, spy on it and eliminate its nuclear deterrent. Nunn, among other Democrats, wants Washington and Moscow to negotiate nuclear disarmament, not waste time on a tiff over a missile shield.

Obama must engage Russia on many fronts, not fan its fears. For example, he needs Russia to fully support economic sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program. And because Russia doesn't want a nuclear-armed Iran any more than the United States and Europe do, there's a good chance the Kremlin can be brought on board—perhaps even in exchange for scrapping the missile shield program.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

## Let's negotiate a new car deal

By DOUGLAS OLIN
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

One of the first real challenges President-elect Barack Obama faces will be what to do about the ailing American auto giants.

The stakes are high. For more than 100 years, the Big Three automakers have been a cornerstone of the U.S. economy and an important symbol of American industrial might. The auto industry is the largest manufacturing industry in America. And it's not just the 239,341 employees of Chrysler, Ford and GM.

A Center for Automotive Research study conducted for the Motor & Equipment Manufacturer's Association estimates that for every direct job at an automaker in the United States, there are 3.3 supplier jobs. These motor vehicle parts suppliers directly employ 783,100 people in the United States and are, in turn, estimated to generate another 1.97 million indirect jobs in industries ranging from steel to plastics to technical services. The spending by these employees generates yet another 1.7 million "spin-off" jobs. A total collapse of this industry could affect as many as 3 million jobs in the first year alone—almost 5 percent of total U.S. manufacturing jobs—and send shock waves through national and foreign markets.

But a "bailout" of the status quo is unappealing. Big auto has struggled for years. Once dominant in the domestic market, the Big Three now command less than 50 percent of the market, and even this share is in decline. Injecting cash into these ailing institutions has an air of reinforcing failure—pouring good money in after bad.

Furthermore, the U.S. automotive industry has been on the wrong side of almost every environmental, social and safety issue since the 1960s. The industry objected to the Clean Air Act, publicly opposed fuel economy standards, fought against seat belt and air bag legislation, dragged its feet on alternative-fuel vehicles and lobbied against almost every socially responsible initiative. Exactly why would the public want to bail out an industry that has failed in the market and been so unresponsive to the public good?

Maybe it's time for America to buy some broad-based social benefits in return for public investment in these companies. If the U.S. government—on behalf of the people—is going to spend considerable sums of public money and incur public debt to keep these institutions alive, let's insist on returns that benefit society as a whole, not merely Big Three shareholders, management and employees.

What might these public benefits be? Well, for one, isn't it time for Detroit to turn out a car that gets at least 100 miles per gallon—and to do it in three years? Couldn't we demand, in return for public money, that management deliver dramatic new fuel economy standards, with appropriate rewards for success and sanctions for failure?

Since transportation (mostly autos) generates one-third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, can't we demand auto fleets that systematically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, perhaps the 30 percent by 2016 proposed by California?

And America needs a laboratory for redefining the relationship between management and organized labor. Why not require those in the boardroom and the production line to work with the new administration to redefine the role of unions and labor relations?

This isn't socialism; it would be our tax dollars at work. For years, this country has maintained a system of tax incentives to urge individuals and corporations to spend money on things deemed to be in the collective national interest. The real estate and construction industries are supported by tax breaks on mortgages. Agriculture receives numerous tax incentives and direct subsidies in the interest of maintaining family farms. A socially constructive paradigm can and should be applied to the institutions and industries that would benefit from the wave of government spending designed to keep them alive in a time of dramatic financial distress.

If 300 million Americans are going to borrow money to bail out an industry, then it seems only reasonable to insist that that industry take more socially responsible positions toward energy conservation, safety and the environment.

With millions of jobs at stake and the potential repercussions of seeing an entire section of the industrial base collapse so soon after the fallout on Wall Street, it is a political, economic and social imperative for the government to do something. But why not do it in a way that challenges this key industry to also help address society's need to reduce consumption of foreign oil, curb greenhouse gas emissions and increase safety on our highways?

I believe that our auto industry can meet this challenge—given the right investments, challenges and incentives. After all, isn't it about time for Detroit to build smart, well-designed cars that also happen to get over 100 mpg?

*Olin was a deputy assistant secretary of Commerce in the Clinton administration.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# New rules for Wall Street

**By ELIOT L. SPITZER**
Special to The Washington Post

*Eliot L. Spitzer was governor of New York from 2007-08 and state attorney general from 1999-2006.*

President-elect Barack Obama will soon face the extraordinary task of saving capitalism from its own excesses, much as Franklin D. Roosevelt had to do 76 years ago. Up until this point in the crisis, policymakers have appropriately applied the rules of triage—Band-Aids and tourniquets, then radical surgery—to keep the global financial system alive. Capital infusions, bailouts, mega-mergers, government guarantees of unimaginable proportions—all have been sought and supported by officials and corporate chief executives who had until now opposed any government participation in the marketplace. But put aside for the moment the ideological cartwheel we have seen and look at the big picture: The rules of modern capitalism have been re-written before our eyes.

The new president's team must soon get to the root causes of the mistakes that have brought us to the economic precipice. Yes, we have all derided the explosion of leverage, the failure to regulate derivatives, the flood of subprime lending that was bound to default and the excesses of CEO compensation. But these are all mere manifestations of three deeper structural problems that require greater attention: misconceptions about what a "free market" really is, a continuing breakdown in corporate governance and an antiquated and incoherent federal financial regulatory framework.

First, we must confront head-on the pervasive misunderstanding of what constitutes a "free market." For long stretches of the past 30 years, too many Americans fell prey to the ideology that a free market requires nearly complete deregulation of banks and other financial institutions and a government with a hands-off approach to enforcement. "We can regulate ourselves," the mantra went.

Those of us who raised red flags about this were scoffed at for failing to understand or even believe in "the market." During my tenure as New York state attorney general, my colleagues and I sought to require investment banking analysts to provide their clients with unbiased recommendations, devoid of undisclosed and structural conflicts. But powerful voices with heavily vested interests accused us of meddling in the market.

When my office, along with the Department of Justice, warned that some of American International Group's reinsurance transactions were little more than efforts to create the false impression of extra capital on the company's balance sheet, we were jeered at for attacking one of the nation's great insurance companies, which surely knew how to balance risk and reward.

And when the attorneys general of all 50 states sought to investigate subprime lending, believing that some lending practices might be toxic, we were blocked by a coalition of the major banks and the Bush administration, which invoked a rarely used statute to preempt the states' ability to probe. The administration claimed that it had the situation under control and that our inquiry was unnecessary.

Time and again, whether at the state level, in Congress or at the Securities and Exchange Commission under Bill Donaldson, those who tried to enforce the basic principles that would allow the market to survive were told that the "invisible hand" of the market and self-regulation could handle the task alone.

The reality is that unregulated competition drives corporate behavior and risk-taking to unacceptable levels. This is simply one of the ways in which some market participants try to gain a competitive advantage. As one lawyer for a company charged with malfeasance stated in a meeting in my office (amazingly, this was intended as a winning defense): "You're right about our behavior, but we're not as bad as our competitors."

No major market problem has been resolved through self-regulation, because individual competitive behavior doesn't concern itself with the larger market. Individual actors care only about performing better than the next guy, doing whatever is permitted—or will go undetected. Look at the major bubbles and market crises. Long-Term Capital Management, Enron, the subprime lending scandals: All are classic demonstrations of the bitter reality that greed, not self-discipline, rules where unfettered behavior is allowed.

Those who truly understand economics, as did Adam Smith, do not preach an absence of government participation. A market doesn't exist in a vacuum. Rather, a market is a product of laws, rules and enforcement. It needs transparency, capital requirements and fidelity to fiduciary duty. The alternative, as we are seeing, is anarchy.

One of the great advantages U.S. capital markets have enjoyed over the decades has been the view—held worldwide—that there was an underlying integrity to the representations market participants made, because the regulatory framework in which they were made was believed to provide genuine oversight. But as we all know, the laws requiring such integrity are meaningless without a government dedicated to enforcing them.

Second, our corporate governance system has failed. We need to reexamine each of the links in its chain. Boards of directors, compensation and audit committees, the trio of facilitators (lawyers, investment bankers and auditors) whose job it is to create the impression of legal compliance, and shareholders themselves—all abdicated their responsibilities.

Institutional shareholders, in particular mutual funds, pension funds and endowments, must reengage in corporate governance. Over the past decade, arguably the sole challenge to corporate mismanagement and poor corporate strategies has come from private-equity firms or activist hedge funds. These firms were among the few shareholders or pools of capital willing to purchase and revamp encrusted corporate machines. So it shouldn't be surprising that the corporate world has taken a skeptical view of them—especially short-selling hedge funds, which have often been a rare voice raising the alarm.

Boards of directors were also missing in action over the past decade; not only did they not provide answers, they all too often failed even to ask the appropriate questions. And the roles of compensation committees, of course, must be totally rethought. No longer can Garrison Keillor's brilliant observation about our kids—that they are all above average—apply to CEOs and propel failed leaders' paychecks through the roof. Today's momentary public oversight and outrage over executive compensation, while long overdue, is no substitute over the long term for firm standards set by compensation committees and boards of directors.

Finally, we need to completely overhaul the federal financial regulatory framework.

Let's leave aside the ideological hesitancy that has long hamstrung regulatory agencies. Today's balkanized regulatory framework for financial services no longer matches in any way the needs of a fully integrated global financial system. The divisions of the past—commercial banking vs. investment banking vs. insurance vs. hedge funds vs. private equity—have become distinctions without a difference. But these old boxes and formalities still determine how entities are viewed and regulated. It should surprise nobody that capital found the crevices in the regulatory framework. That is what capital is paid to do. But we failed to respond with a regulatory framework flexible enough to plug the leaks.

We do not need additional fragmented areas of federal regulation to handle hedge funds, sovereign wealth funds or derivatives. We need a unified approach that addresses the underlying issues: what kinds of leverage we wish to tolerate, how to measure risk, how much disclosure various trading products should provide. We cannot survive with the current system: the SEC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Fed, the Office of Thrift Supervision and on and on. We must go from the Rube Goldberg structure we now have to a sleek iPod design that is cleaner, has better operating software and may even look good.

We began to try to craft such a unified model in New York, as did Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson in Washington last year. But it is urgent that we finish the job. Having flooded the market with cash and seen the government take a chunk of many of our largest financial institutions, we now need to craft the rules that will apply to all market participants.

Three overarching priorities should guide government actions in the new structure. First, we need better control of systemic risk. The currently splintered federal regulatory authority, the continued presence of off-balance-sheet transactions for financial entities (even post-Enron) and the failure to subject major players to any government oversight means that nobody can really understand the full risk facing the financial system.

Second, investors must be protected with adequate, accurate information. Firms must offer transparency both to individual investors and to government regulators.

And third, as Eric Dinallo, the superintendent of the New York State Insurance Department, has wisely pointed out, we will have to step back from the current environment in which government has become a guarantor of all major risk. The so-called moral hazard will serve to devalue risk in the market, and this too will have a debilitating long-term effect on capital flows. Only if private actors have to bear the real risks they incur will the market function properly. We are now perilously close to nationalizing risk.

As the rules of modern capitalism are rewritten over the next year, those who benefit from the enormous flow of cash being spread throughout the U.S. economy must be expected to compete within a system of rules that creates a true market—based on sound, skilled regulation, vigorous corporate governance and transparency.

Although mistakes I made in my private life now prevent me from participating in these issues as I have in the past, I very much hope and expect that President Obama and his new administration will have the strength and wisdom to do again what FDR did.

*No major market problem has been resolved through self-regulation, because individual competitive behavior doesn't concern itself with the larger market. Individual actors care only about performing better than the next guy, doing whatever is permitted—or will go undetected. Look at the major bubbles and market crises. Long-Term Capital Management, Enron, the subprime lending scandals: All are classic demonstrations of the bitter reality that greed, not self-discipline, rules where unfettered behavior is allowed.*

## Letters to the Editor

# Conservation of northern isles a must

I've written many letters about the proposed marine monument and I think it's not a wise idea for the CNMI. The CNMI does have to ask what the other options are for the Northern Islands, and right now there is really no plan at all. That's not acceptable.

Mr. Pellegrino writes that we have to ask where our ship, so to speak, is headed—and he is absolutely correct. I and most everyone agree that conservation of the northern islands is a must. How we go about that is the real question. How can we effectively utilize the isles for the greater good of the CNMI without causing harm to them? The answer right now is no one has proposed any ideas that have both widespread support and are feasible. Many of the points the supporters of the marine monument raised are valid: it's a special environment; it's a setting ripe for scientific study; it needs protecting, among a few.

I encourage all citizens of the CNMI to put forth ideas that could benefit the CNMI with regards to the NMI. Diawa Corp. used to have a recreational sport fishing operation that employed locals and added value to the economy. They withdrew and sold the vessels after one of the managers was murdered, and the local *Challenger* captain was found out to have falsified his U.S. Coast Guard license. I had worked for them part time. I hope the elected officials could create a think tank, a web site, a committee, a group of people that will put their heads together and come up with ideas and ways the CNMI can profit and prosper utilizing the NMI. If they don't do so, then it's up to the people to do so. While for many reasons the marine monument is not the vehicle to do so, that does not mean it cannot be done.

**William McCue**
*Wellington, Florida*

# Clarification

In regards to the article, "Fee increase intended to fund Labor's Web site," published in the *Saipan Tribune* on Nov. 14, 2008, I would like to clarify that billings to the department for website maintenance, design and hosting account for less than .007 percent of the total amount mentioned in the article.

**Ron Smith**
*President, Angil Design, Inc.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲88° ▼79° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° |

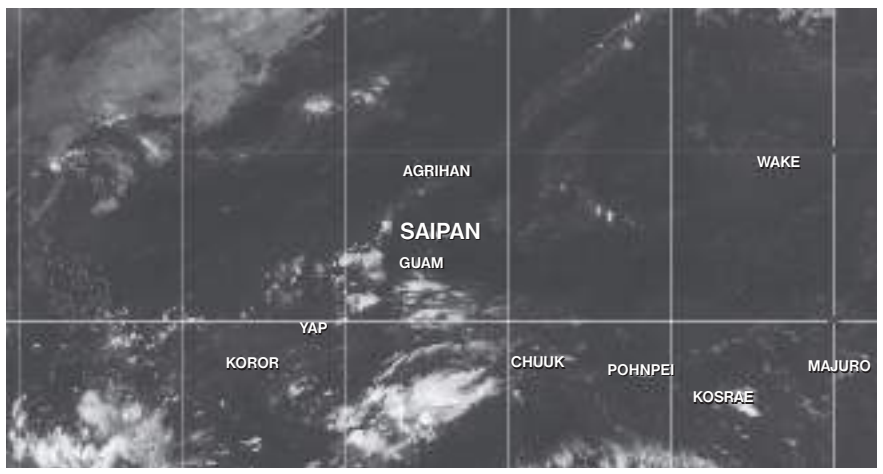
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲85 | ▼74 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲85 | ▼76 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Sunny | ▲64 | ▼53 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲39 | ▼19 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼66 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲77 | ▼70 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲52 | ▼43 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲84 | ▼54 |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼75 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲69 | ▼60 |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | ▲74 | ▼55 |
| New York | Cloudy | ▲42 | ▼28 |
| Osaka | Cloudy | ▲52 | ▼38 |
| Paris | Cloudy | ▲51 | ▼37 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲45 | ▼25 |
| Rome | Mostly Cloudy | ▲59 | ▼50 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲56 | ▼39 |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | ▲68 | ▼49 |
| Seoul | Rain/Snow | ▲39 | ▼25 |
| Tokyo | Partly Sunny | ▲64 | ▼50 |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | ▲43 | ▼31 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:30AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds associated with a surface ridge is producing scattered showers just south of Iwo To island between 22N and 25N from 139E to 144E. A low-level trough extends northward from 7N148E to near Saipan at 16N146E then turns north-northeastward to beyond 25N at 153E near Minamitori Shima aided by favorable upper-level dynamics. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring northwest of Chuuk between 10N and 12N from 146E to 152E. Identical weather is also seen just west of Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan within 50 miles of a line from 13N143E to 17N145E and north of Yap within 30 miles of a line from 12N137E to 14N140E. Scattered showers are present farther northeast along the trough axis within 60 miles of a line from 17N145E to 25N156E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered shower formation in three areas. The first one is just southeast of Wake Island within 50 miles of 18N168E. The other two are southeast of Minamitori Shima within 80 miles of 19N156E and between 16N and 17N from 158E to 163E. Surface convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Koror between the equator and 6N from 130E to 133E. A surface trough runs northeastward from EQ143E to 5N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis just north of the equator within 80 miles of a line from 1n142e to 2N147E. Similar conditions also exist southwest of Chuuk between 3N and 6N from 142E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers from just east of Kosrae to south of Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 5N164E to 3N173E and near the dateline between 4N and 6N from 177E to 180.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5:19AM Today | Low Tide: | 0.6 Feet |
| 12:56PM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |
| 6:19PM Today | Low Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 10:27PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:20AM | 5:44 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:21AM | 5:44 PM |
| Thursday | 6:21AM | 5:44 PM |
| Friday | 6:22AM | 5:44 PM |
| Saturday | 6:22AM | 5:44 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:52PM | 11:09AM |
| Wednesday | 11:50PM | 11:56AM |
| Thursday | | 12:38PM |
| Friday | 12:44AM | 1:17PM |
| Saturday | 1:35AM | 1:54PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2008

### DEPARTURES

**Saipan-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1,7 |

**Saipan-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO9317 | 5:00am | 5:50am | Daily |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm | 1,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | 2,3,4,5,6 |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Narita**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:40am | Daily |
| NW 078 | 8:25am | 1:30pm | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:30pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Osaka**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 083 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Nagoya**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 078 | 8:25am | 11:05am | Daily |

**Saipan-Seoul**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 604 | 2:30am | 6:20am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | Daily |

**Saipan-Busan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 608 | 3:50am | 7:20am | 1,4,5,7 |

**Saipan-Shanghai**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 608 | 1:30am | 4:30am | 2,6 |
| FM 844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2,6 |

**Rota-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1,7 |

**Guam-Manila**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 8:00pm | 9:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:50am | 1,2,4,6,7 |

### ARRIVALS

**Rota-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 3:25am | 4:00am | 5,6 |

**Guam-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | 1,2,3,4,7 |
| CO9598 | 2:30am | 4:00am | 5,6 via Rota |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9600 | 10:20am | 11:10am | Daily |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**Narita-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:40pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:25am+1 | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 100 | 8:45pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |

**Osaka-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 084 | 10:40am | 3:10pm | Daily |

**Nagoya-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:25am+1 | Daily |

**Seoul-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |

**Busan-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 607 | 9:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 3,4,6,7 |

**Shanghai-Saipan**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ 607 | 5:30pm | 12:30am+1 | 1,5 |
| FM 843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1,5 |

**Guam-Rota**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 9598 | 2:30am | 3:00am | 5,6 |

**Manila-Guam**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 11:10pm | 4:40am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:10pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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# Business

# Showdown looming in Congress over automaker rescue

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Hardline opponents of an auto industry bailout branded the industry a "dinosaur" whose "day of reckoning" is near, while Democrats pledged Sunday to do their best to get Detroit a slice of the $700 billion Wall Street rescue in this week's lame-duck session of Congress.

The companies are seeking $25 billion from the financial industry bailout for emergency loans, though supporters of the aid for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC have offered to reduce the size of the rescue to win backing in Congress.

Senate Democrats intended to introduce legislation Monday attaching an auto bailout to a House-passed bill extending unemployment benefits; a vote was expected as early as Wednesday.

A White House alternative would let the car companies take $25 billion in loans previously approved to develop fuel-efficient vehicles and use the money for more immediate needs. Congressional Democrats oppose the White House plan as shortsighted.

Majority Democrats will need at least a dozen GOP votes in the Senate to prevent opponents from blocking their measure - assuming all Senate Democrats support it. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky questioned whether there was sufficient Democratic support for an auto bailout in a statement released Sunday.

"The silence from the Democrat rank and file on this matter has been deafening," McConnell said.

So far two Republicans publicly have voiced support for the idea. Several others, including Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman on Sunday, have indicated they might accept a rescue under strict conditions.

Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama and Jon Kyl of Arizona said it would be a mistake to use any of the Wall Street rescue money to prop up the automakers because a bailout would only postpone the industry's demise.

"Companies fail everyday and others take their place. I think this is a road we should not go down," said Shelby, the senior Republican on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. "They're not building the right products," he said. "They've got good workers but I don't believe they've got good management. They don't innovate. They're a dinosaur in a sense."

Added Kyl, the Senate's second-ranking Republican: "Just giving them $25 billion doesn't change anything. It just puts off for six months or so the day of reckoning."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said over the weekend the House would aid the ailing industry, though she did not put a price on her plan. "The House is ready to do it," said Democratic Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. "There's no downside to trying."

Frank's committee has scheduled a Wednesday hearing on an auto bailout.

It is a more difficult fight in the Senate, given the Democrats' slim edge and President George W. Bush's opposition.

AP

Chevrolet salesman Philip Jordan, center, assists Charlotte Olson, right, who's looking to buy a car for her 18-year-old daughter, Kari Olson, left, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, in downtown Los Angeles.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### China gives no sign of bailout help after summit

**BEIJING** (AP)—China got what it wanted in Washington's financial summit—a promise of a bigger role for developing countries in global finance—but gave no sign Sunday whether it will respond by using any of its $1.9 trillion in reserves in a bailout fund. China has been pushing for developing countries generally—and itself specifically—to have more influence at the International Monetary Fund and other global bodies. Analysts say that might be Beijing's price to give in to foreign appeals to dip into its reserves and contribute money toward an IMF emergency loan fund for struggling countries. The Washington summit was an "important and positive" step toward "the reform of the international financial structure," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement. It made no mention of possible bailout contributions, and a man who answered the phone at the ministry press office said he had no information. Leaders from 21 nations, including China, and four international organizations attended the emergency two-day summit intended to address the financial crisis sweeping the globe.

### OPEC head: oil production cuts unlikely this month

**ALGIERS, Algeria** (AP)—More oil output reductions aren't likely this month because OPEC members haven't yet fully enforced previous quotas and the organization needs more data before it reaches a decision, the cartel's president said Sunday. Chakib Khelil's comments came as Iran called for a new output cut of at least 1 million barrels per day, in addition to the 1.5 million cut decided by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Oct. 24 to try to sustain slumping prices. The Iranian statement led some observers to consider that the 13-member producer's cartel could decide to further diminish production during its special session in Cairo on Nov. 29. But Khelil, who is also Algeria's energy minister, said it wasn't realistic to expect the cartel to reach a decision before the organization collects all the data on current output levels. Iran's call for more cuts is "a wish," Khelil said. "It's unlikely there will be sufficient data to reach a realistic decision" at the Cairo meeting, he said. Such a move is more likely on Dec. 17 when OPEC holds its summit in the Algerian city of Oran.

## No bonus this year for Goldman Sachs CEO Blankfein

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. CEO Lloyd Blankfein and six other top executives at the bank will not be receiving cash or stock bonuses for 2008, a spokesman said Sunday.

The decision was made by the seven executives themselves, said spokesman Lucas Van Praag, and approved Sunday by the Wall Street firm's compensation committee. The executives made the decision "because they think it's the right thing to do," Van Praag said.

The seven executives include Blankfein; Presidents and Co-Chief Operating Officers Jon Winkelried and Gary Cohn; Vice Chairmen John Weinberg, J. Michael Evans and Michael Sherwood; and Chief Financial Officer David Viniar.

They will receive no cash bonuses, no stock, and no options for 2008—just their salaries, the spokesman said. Companies typically release compensation figures for top executives in the spring as part of their annual proxy statements.

Last year, Blankfein received total compensation of $54.0 million, according to calculations by The Associated Press—making him the 6th highest paid CEO at a Standard & Poor's 500 company in 2007. His salary that year was $600,000.

Goldman Sachs, like other financial institutions, has been struggling this year with the soaring mortgage defaults and the seize-up of the credit markets.

## Gadget survey finds many bugs can't be fixed

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Gadget makers love to sell us on all the things their devices can do, whether it's letting us chat with distant friends at any time or watch movies on our commute. But can anyone fix this stuff when it breaks?

That's a question raised by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which discovered in a survey released Sunday that 15 percent of people who had some piece of technology break down in the previous year were never able to get it repaired.

The figure was even higher for certain products. Almost a quarter of cell phone users said they never managed to get their device fixed. And among those who did resolve an issue, a higher percentage either corrected the problem themselves or sought help from friends or relatives rather than call customer service.

"That 15 percent of technology users are sort of throwing up their hands was surprising for us," said John Horrigan, the author of the study. "You're talking about close to one in four cell phone users and one in five computer users saying, `Hey I can't cope with this any longer, I'm done.'"

The survey covered computers, Internet service, music players, cell phones and their higher-end siblings known as "smart" phones. And while the results are no conclusive verdict on the state of customer care in the digital age, analysts say the figures indicate the growing complexity of technology.

Zachary McGeary, an analyst with Jupiter Research, noted that gadgetry now involves an "increasingly integrated ecosystem of devices."

## Japan slides into recession, 1st time since 2001

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's economy slid into a recession for the first time since 2001, the government said Monday, as companies sharply cut back on spending in the third quarter amid the unfolding global financial crisis.

The world's second-largest economy contracted at an annual pace of 0.4 percent in the July-September period after a declining an annualized 3.7 percent in the second quarter. That means Japan, along with the 15-nation euro-zone, is now technically in a recession, defined as two straight quarters of contraction.

The result was worse than expected. Economists surveyed by Kyodo News agency had predicted an annualized 0.1 percent rise in the third quarter.

AP

Pedestrians are reflected on an electric market board in Tokyo, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008. The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average fell in early trade.

Japan's Economy Minister Kaoru Yosano said following the data's release that "the economy is in a recessionary phase," according to Kyodo.

But the worst may be yet to come in the wake of the global financial crisis, especially with dramatic declines in demand from consumers overseas for Japan's autos and electronics gadgets. Hurt also by a strengthening yen, a growing number of exporters big and small are slashing their profit, sales and spending projections for the full fiscal year through March.

Toyota Motor Corp., for example, has cut net profit full-year profit forecast to 550 billion yen ($5.5 billion)—about a third of last year's earnings.

Compared to the previous quarter, gross domestic product shrank 0.1 percent, the Cabinet Office said. Business investment—a main driver of Japan's six-year economic recovery since 2002—dropped 1.7 percent from the previous quarter.

# Nation

## Even as winds calm, more Californians flee fires

**DIAMOND BAR, Calif.** (AP)—More residents of Southern California were urged to leave their homes Sunday despite calming winds that allowed a major aerial attack on wildfires that have destroyed hundreds of homes and blanketed the region in smoke.

Fires burned in Los Angeles County, to the east in Riverside and Orange counties, and to the northwest in Santa Barbara County. More than 800 houses, mobile homes and apartments were destroyed by fires that have burned areas more than 34 square miles since breaking out Thursday.

No deaths have been reported, but police brought in trained dogs Sunday morning to search the rubble of a mobile home park where nearly 500 homes were destroyed. They didn't find any bodies after searching about a third of the homes.

AP

A water-dropping helicopter soars over the setting sun as smoke from a wildfire creates an orange glow in the sky in Diamond Bar, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

"This has been a very tough few days for the people of Southern California," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said after touring damage.

The smell of smoke pervaded metropolitan Los Angeles. Downtown skyscrapers were silhouettes in an opaque sky, and concerns about air quality forced organizers to cancel a marathon in suburban Pasadena where 8,000 runners had planned to participate.

Fierce Santa Ana winds that fanned the fires on Saturday weakened Sunday morning, allowing firefighters to set backfires to prevent flames from advancing to hillside neighborhoods. Air tankers swooped low over suburbs, red fire retardant billowing from their bellies as they painted defensive lines between brushlands and homes. Big helicopters shuttled back and forth on water drops.

The most threatening blaze had scorched more than 16 square miles in Orange and Riverside counties after erupting Saturday and shooting through subdivisions entwined with wilderness parklands. Multimillion-dollar homes were threatened in Diamond Bar in Los Angeles County as the out-of-control fire pushed northward.

Fire officials on Sunday morning ordered 1,400 more residents to evacuate, in addition to 26,500 who had already been told to leave.

Retired aerospace engineer Joe Gomez, who has lived in his palm-tree-lined Diamond Bar neighborhood for 45 years, stayed put despite being under a mandatory evacuation.

"I'm trying to use some logic here," said Gomez, 72, trying to gauge the direction of the wind and flames. "I don't think it's going to come down this way."

## Uproar over federal drilling leases next to parks

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—The view of Delicate Arch natural bridge—an unspoiled landmark so iconic it's on Utah's license plates—could one day include a drilling platform under a proposal that environmentalists call a Bush administration "fire sale" for the oil and gas industry.

Late on Election Day, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced a Dec. 19 auction of more than 50,000 acres of oil and gas parcels alongside or within view of Arches National Park and two other redrock national parks in Utah: Dinosaur and Canyonlands.

The National Park Service's top official in the state calls it "shocking and disturbing" and says his agency wasn't properly notified. Environmentalists call it a "fire sale" for the oil and gas industry by a departing administration.

Officials of the BLM, which oversees millions of acres of public land in the West, say the sale is nothing unusual, and one is "puzzled" that the Park Service is upset.

"We find it shocking and disturbing," said Cordell Roy, the chief Park Service administrator in Utah. "They added 51,000 acres of tracts near Arches, Dinosaur and Canyonlands without telling us about it. That's 40 tracts within four miles of these parks."

Top aides to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne stepped into the fray, ordering the sister agencies to make amends. His press secretary, Shane Wolfe, told The Associated Press that deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett "resolved the dispute within 24 hours" last week.

A compromise ordered by the Interior Department requires the BLM to "take quite seriously" the Park Service's objections, said Wolfe.

## Burlington, Vt., is healthiest city, CDC says

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

What's the healthiest city in America? It appears to be Burlington, Vt.

Vermont's largest city is tops among U.S. metropolitan areas by having the largest proportion of people—92 percent—who say they are in good or great health.

It's also among the best in exercise and among the lowest in obesity, diabetes and other measures of ill health, according to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This New England city of 40,000, on the shores of Lake Champlain, is in some ways similar to the unhealthiest city—Huntington, W.Va. Both are out-of-the-way college towns with populations that are overwhelmingly white people of English, German or Irish ancestry.

But there the similarities end:

- Burlington is younger, with an average age of 37, compared to 40 in Huntington, according to the Census Bureau.
- Burlington is better off financially, with 8 percent living at the federal poverty level, compared to 19 percent in Huntington.
- It's much more educated, with nearly 40 percent of area residents having at least a college bachelor's degree. Only 15 percent in the Huntington area do.

The cultures are significantly different, too. Bicycling, hiking, skiing and other exercises are common in Burlington. Neighborhood groups commonly focus on improving parks, working in community gardens and repairing and improving sidewalks.

"There's this norm of a lot of activity," said Chris Finley, Vermont's deputy health commissioner, who works in Burlington.

And though college staples like pizza are common, healthier foods are also popular. Grass-fed beef is offered in finer restaurants, vegan options are plentiful, and the lone downtown supermarket is run by a co-op successful in selling bulk rice and other healthy choices to low-income residents.

## Financial overhaul added to Obama's to-do list

**WASHINGTON**(AP)—Barack Obama isn't president yet, but his must-do list just got longer.

The newest addition to the lengthy list of tasks after taking office: helping oversee the overhaul of the world's financial regulatory system. That is one of the assignments to the president-elect from current global leaders after their weekend summit, where they pledged action to avoid a repeat of the financial mess that has caused worldwide economic chaos.

"Obama has a tall order," said Morris Goldstein, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics who spent years working at the International Monetary Fund, the world's financial firefighter.

"He has a lot of things he has to do quickly in a number of areas and doesn't have a lot of time to think about them," Goldstein said in an interview Sunday.

That will put a lot of pressure on Obama. He did not participate in the emergency two-day summit that concluded Saturday, instead sending representatives to meet with leaders on the sidelines.

After taking the oath of office Jan. 20, Obama will have to figure out in short order how far his administration is willing to go in revamping oversight of financial companies and products, in the United States and abroad, and nailing down the crucial details.

"Obama has an incredible mountain to climb in the way of the economic and financial situation," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

President George W. Bush hosted the summit, where nearly two dozen foreign leaders endorsed broad goals to fend off any future calamities and to revive the global economy.

It will be up to finance ministers to flesh out the details to put such changes in place by the end of March. Leaders plan to hold the next summit by April 30—just months into Obama's term.

"I think this puts Obama and a new administration in a very difficult position," said Steven Schrage, a former Bush administration trade official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"It's really going to be up to the next administration to figure, do they breathe life into this? Does this go forward? Do they take it in a different direction?"

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Obamas won't get puppy before White House move

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Malia and Sasha Obama will have to wait at least two more months for that puppy their dad promised them. President-elect Barack Obama said on Election Night that he had promised his young daughters that they could get a dog once the race was over. But the pup won't become part of the first family until after they move into the White House on Jan. 20. In an interview with her husband broadcast Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes," future first lady Michelle Obama said: "We're on call-mode on the dog front. Because the deal with the dog was that we would get the dog after we got settled. Because as responsible owners we—I don't think it would be good to get a dog in the midst of transition." She added: "We cut that deal with the kids before ... America knew about it. So they're—they're good with it." "Although," Barack Obama said, "Americans ..." "They're ready for us to get the dog now," Michelle Obama said.

### Shuttle Endeavour links with space station

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—Space shuttle Endeavour linked with the international space station on Sunday, kicking off a huge home makeover that will allow twice as many astronauts to live up there beginning next year. Commander Christopher Ferguson guided the shuttle to a smooth docking as the two spacecraft soared 212 miles above India. His ship's radar worked just fine, despite earlier trouble with the antenna. "We understand that this house is in need of an extreme makeover and that you're the crew to do it," the space station's skipper, Mike Fincke, said as he welcomed the seven shuttle astronauts aboard. His crewmate, Gregory Chamitoff, was especially excited to see Endeavour. He's been living on the space station for almost six months, and the shuttle is his ride home. "Wow," Chamitoff exclaimed. "You look beautiful ... I am smiling from ear to ear."

### Plane slides down Philly runway minus front wheels

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—A US Airways Express airliner slid down a runway Sunday during an emergency landing without its nose landing gear. No injuries were reported. The Philadelphia-bound deHavilland Dash-8 turboprop, operated by Piedmont Airlines, took off from Allentown at about 8:20 a.m. with 35 passengers and three crew members, according to officials of the airline and Philadelphia International Airport. Before the scheduled landing at Philadelphia, the crew got an indication that the landing gear was not down and did a flyover to confirm that the nose wheels had not deployed, airport spokeswoman Victoria Lupica said. Fire crews spread foam on the runway as a precaution before the landing at about 9:20 a.m. The plane skidded down the runway on its nose, but there was no smoke or fire, Lupica said. Passengers were taken to the terminal by bus.

# Asia

# Tibetan exiles gather to discuss future of Tibet

**DHARMSALA, India** (AP)—Several hundred Tibetan exile leaders gathered in northern India on Sunday for a landmark meeting widely expected to determine the direction of the movement that has struggled for decades to win autonomy from China.

The weeklong meeting that begins Monday was called by the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader, saying that new ideas were needed following the repeated failure of talks with China.

On Sunday, the Dalai Lama's envoys to the last round of talks with Beijing issued a statement saying they had presented China with a detailed plan on how Tibetans could meet their needs of autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution.

But China had apparently rejected the plan and recent "Chinese statements distort the position and proposal we have outlined in our paper," the statement said.

Chinese officials said no progress had been made in the talks two weeks ago, calling the Tibetan stance "a trick" and saying it lacked sincerity.

"The Dalai Lama or the Tibetan government-in-exile cannot be held responsible for the failure of the Chinese to respond to our sincere and genuine attempts," said Lodi Gyari, one of the two envoys of the Dalai Lama who has participated in all eight rounds of talks since 2002.

"The Chinese leadership keeps on saying that the doors to a dialogue are always open but they haven't shown any willingness to take any step, however small, forward," he said.

It was the first time the envoys had commented on the talks, saying they had not wanted to make statements ahead of this week's special meeting.

The Dalai Lama told Tibetans ahead of the meeting that there was no set plan.

"It must be clear to all that this special meeting does not have any agenda for reaching a particular predetermined outcome," the Dalai Lama said. "We can be proud at this moment when the Tibetan people themselves are ready and able to take responsibility for Tibet."

AP

The Dalai Lama's envoys to the last round of talks with Beijing, Lodi Gyari, right, and and Kelsang Gyaltsen, center, address the media in Dharmsala, India, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

## Prison terms devastate Myanmar democracy movement

**BANGKOK, Thailand** (AP)—In a devastating week for Myanmar's democracy movement, dozens of its members have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms, as the military-ruled government locks away writers and Buddhist monks—as well as musicians, a poet and at least one journalist.

By the weekend, more than 80 had received sentences of up to 65 years—a move that seemed designed to keep them jailed long past upcoming elections, activists and analysts said Sunday.

"They are clearing the decks of anyone who is likely to challenge their authority ahead of the election" in 2010, Larry Jagan, a Bangkok-based newspaper columnist and Myanmar analyst, said of the generals who rule the country.

Many of those sentenced were arrested following mass pro-democracy protests that were crushed by the ruling junta in September 2007. According to U.N. estimates, at least 31 people were killed and thousands were detained. Many fled the country or went underground.

Others sentenced this week were arrested in 2007 for protesting a massive fuel-price hike—demonstrations that preceded the protests in September.

## Truck ban hampers supply line to US in Afghanistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—Container trucks and oil tankers bound for U.S and NATO troops in Afghanistan have suspended deliveries after militant attacks prompted Pakistan to block a major supply line, highlighting the vulnerability of the mountain passage.

The ban in northwest Pakistan, confirmed on Sunday, was intended to allow for a review of security in the famed Khyber Pass. The convoys currently have little to no security detail as they travel to Afghanistan with vital food, fuel and other goods.

The suspension could be lifted as early as Monday with new procedures in place, said Bakhtiar Khan, a No. 2 government representative in the area.

Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters are behind much of the escalating violence along the lengthy, porous Afghan-Pakistan border. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have accused each other of not doing enough to stop militant activity, while U.S. missile strikes in Pakistani territory have ratcheted up tensions further.

Last Monday, dozens of suspected Taliban militants hijacked several trucks near the Khyber Pass whose load included Humvees heading to the U.S.-led coalition. Over the weekend, U.S.-led coalition troops reported killing 38 insurgents in fighting in southern Afghanistan and detaining two militant leaders near Pakistan's lawless border.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Jailed Taiwanese ex-leader hospitalized

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Authorities took former Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian from his jail cell to a hospital Sunday when a doctor detected an irregular heartbeat following Chen's five-day hunger strike over his arrest on corruption charges. A prison doctor examined 57-year-old Chen on Sunday and recommended his hospitalization, said Lee Ta-chu, an official at Tucheng Jail, where Chen had been held in solitary confinement since Wednesday while prosecutors investigate graft allegations against him. Chen "is having difficulty breathing and is complaining of pain on the left side of his chest," Lee told The Associated Press. The former president was conscious when taken to the hospital, he said. Chen agreed to allow doctors to inject him with glucose, which stabilized his condition, but he is still suffering from a slow metabolism because of the prolonged fast, Tsai Kuang-chao, a doctor at Far East Memorial Hospital where the former president was first admitted said Monday. Chen has since been moved to another hospital in suburban Taipei.

### Indonesia quake kills 1, buildings collapse

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—A powerful earthquake jolted eastern Indonesia Monday, killing at least one person, crumpling homes and briefly triggering a region-wide tsunami warning, officials said as they surveyed the damage. The 7.5-magnitude quake struck off the coast of Sulawesi island in the middle of the night, sending thousands fleeing homes, hotels and even hospitals. The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake struck 54 miles from the nearest city, Gorantalo, on Sulawesi island. It was centered 13 miles beneath the sea and was followed by two strong aftershocks. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center initially warned the temblor had the potential to generate a destructive tsunami along coasts within 600 miles. But even after local officials lifted the tsunami alert, frightened Sulawesi residents refused to go back indoors. In December 2004, a massive earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island triggered a tsunami that battered much of the Indian Ocean coastline and killed more than 230,000 people—131,000 of them in Indonesia's Aceh province alone. A tsunami off Java island last year killed nearly 5,000.

### RP marines kill Muslim militant linked to 2001 kidnapping of 3 Americans

**ZAMBOANGA, Philippines** (AP)—A Muslim militant linked to the 2001 kidnapping of three Americans has been killed and another was wounded but managed to flee during a clash with marines in the southern Philippines, the military said Sunday. Abu Sayyaf militants Faidar Hadjadi and Jaiton Torsita Abubakar were traveling on a motorcycle when they were stopped by marines at a checkpoint in Indanan township on Jolo island late Friday. An ensuing clash killed Hadjadi, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said. Abubakar was wounded but managed to escape, he said. Hadjadi, who had a 300,000-peso ($6,100) reward offered for his capture, was involved in the kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf of three Americans and 17 other people from an island resort in 2001. Two of the Americans died while in rebel custody while another was wounded in an army commando rescue that freed her, Torres said.

## NKorea: Kim attends 2 military performances

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea's absolute leader Kim Jong Il attended two performances staged by the military, waving to performers at the end of one concert, state-run media reported over the weekend amid continued speculation about his health.

It was the latest effort by the communist country to portray Kim as in good health in response to speculation he had suffered a stroke, though no images of Kim were released along with the latest reports.

The North's state-run news agency reported that Kim and top military officers attended North Korea's 32nd military art festival, watching two performances by army and navy personnel. However, the agency released no images of the leader.

After the second performance, Kim waved to "the enthusiastically cheering performers" and told them he was "very pleased" to be reunited with soldiers he met previously during unit inspections, according to the Korean Central News Agency report Sunday.

KCNA had reported Saturday that Kim also watched a performance by another unit and told them art will make them better fighters.

Neither dispatch, monitored in Seoul a day later, specified exactly when or where Kim watched the performance.

North Korea's isolation makes it difficult to obtain reliable information. South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Ho-nyeon said Monday that he had no new information about Kim's health.

South Korean and U.S. officials suspect Kim, 66, suffered a stroke and underwent brain surgery in August.

North Korea denies the reports, and has released a slew of articles and photographs portraying Kim as active and healthy.

However, all the North Korean reports and photos have been undated, with some photos appearing to have been taken several months earlier.

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il claps from the balcony as soldiers salute him during a military parade, celebrating the foundation of the armed forces in Pyongyang, North Korea, in this April 25, 2002 file photo.

# World

# Iraq approves security pact with US

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraq's Cabinet overwhelmingly approved a security pact with the United States on Sunday, ending prolonged negotiations to allow American forces to remain for three more years in the country they first occupied in 2003.

The deal detailing the conditions of the U.S. presence still needs parliamentary approval, and lawmakers could vote as soon as Nov. 24. For Iraqis, the breakthrough was bittersweet because they won concessions from the Americans but must accept the presence of U.S. troops until 2012.

"It's the best possible, available option," said government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh. He was referring to the conflict between Iraq's desire for full sovereignty and control over security and its need for American support and cooperation to achieve that goal.

Al-Dabbagh described the pact—intended to supplant the U.N. mandate expiring Dec. 31—as an "agreement on the withdrawal of U.S. troops," and Washington welcomed the Cabinet's approval.

"While the process is not yet complete, we remain hopeful and confident we'll soon have an agreement that serves both the people of Iraq and the United States well and sends a signal to the region and the world that both our governments are committed to a stable, secure and democratic Iraq," said Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for the White House's National Security Council.

AP

In this image released by the Iraqi government, Iraq's Cabinet votes to approve a security pact with the United States during a session in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

There is a good chance parliament will pass the agreement with a large majority, since the parties that make up Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition government dominate the legislature.

The pact was due to be completed by the end of July, but negotiations stumbled over parts pertaining to Iraqi sovereignty and judicial oversight.

Al-Dabbagh said Iraq's government has received U.S. assurances that the President-elect Barack Obama would honor the agreement, and pointed out that each side has the right to repeal it after giving one year's notice. Obama, who takes office in January, has said he would pull U.S. combat troops out of Iraq within 16 months of moving into the White House—or May 2010.

## Israeli airstrike kills 4 Gaza militants

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip** (AP)—An airstrike killed four Palestinians as they were firing mortars at Israel Sunday, the latest in a surge of clashes that have rocked a 5-month-old truce between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

In a separate incident, Palestinian rocket fire injured one Israeli.

Both sides say they would like to preserve the truce, which expires next month. But with violence escalating over the past two weeks, the cease-fire appears to be unraveling.

The militants killed in the airstrike were from a small Hamas-allied group known as the Popular Resistance Committees. Abu Attaya, a spokesman for the group, said the four were firing mortars when they were killed.

Abu Mujahed, another spokesman for the PRC, said his group is pulling out of the truce, and Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum threatened retaliation for the killings.

"Today's crime will not pass without punishment," he said.

After the strike, dozens of onlookers converged on the bodies of two of the dead men shouting "God is great." They then carried the bodies, one wrapped in a blanket, to a nearby civilian car.

At sundown a rocket launched from Gaza hit a house under construction in the battered Israeli border town of Sderot, slightly injuring a resident, police and media reports said. Palestinians launched two other rockets earlier in the day but no one was hurt, the military said.

According to the Israeli military's count, Palestinians have sent more than 170 rockets and mortars flying at Israel since the violence resumed nearly two weeks ago. Israeli troops have killed 15 militants, and two more died in unclear circumstances.

## Italy fights mob terror near Naples

**CASAL DI PRINCIPE, Italy** (AP)—The paratroopers' armored vehicles had barely taken up position in this fiefdom of the Casalesi crime clan when the mobsters decided to show who was boss.

On a sleepy Sunday, a few hundred yards from where the crack Thunderbolt brigade was deployed with automatic rifles, two gunmen drove down the town's main street and pumped bullets into a 60-year-old man at a table just inside the entrance of a card parlor.

The murder of an uncle of a crime syndicate turncoat left blood oozing across the stone sidewalk and a collective silence by potential witnesses among fellow card players, prompting a wry comment that the victim must have been playing solitaire.

After dealing blows that left Sicily's Cosa Nostra reeling and making inroads against Calabria's potent 'ndrangheta syndicate, Italy's new war against organized crime is challenging the Camorra, the Naples regional mafia depicted in a film just released in the U.S., after the mob carried out a brutal, monthslong murder spree that included gunning down six Ghanaian immigrants in one swoop.

In recent months, the government has sent 3,000 soldiers into other cities across Italy to help battle crime syndicates. Now it has poured 500 soldiers and 400 police investigators into the region northwest of Naples, with most patrolling the flat, bleak, provincial countryside that is under the sway of the Casalesi, so named for its stronghold here in the town of Casal di Principe.

The deployment is set to last until December and could be extended if violence persists. Using the military against criminals is not new—it has been done in Naples and Sicily—but the theory still stands that sending in troops can free up local police who know the territory to intensify the search for clues and suspects.

## Olmert calls for world to stop Iran nuclear bomb

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday that Iran is still trying to build nuclear bombs and the world must make a concerted effort to stop the project.

Olmert

"Iran has not terminated its pursuit of nuclear weapons," Olmert told a gathering of North American Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. "Iran cannot become nuclear. Israel cannot afford it... the free world must not accept it. We must all do whatever we can to prevent it."

Israel considers Iran a strategic threat because of its nuclear program, its development of long-range missiles and repeated threats to destroy the Jewish state.

Olmert did not give specific warnings about possible Israeli actions against Iran.

Iran denies its nuclear program is aimed at producing weapons.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Congo rebel leader promises to back UN efforts

JOMBA, Congo (AP)—Congo's main rebel leader promised a U.N. envoy Sunday to support a cease-fire and U.N. efforts to end the fighting, and the diplomat said he hoped the warring sides would hold peace talks in Kenya. As more heavy fighting was reported in eastern Congo, the envoy, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, met with rebel leader Laurent Nkunda for the first time, after talking in recent days with President Joseph Kabila and the leader of neighboring Angola. Obasanjo flew by helicopter to the rebel-held town of Jomba, near the Ugandan border, and was greeted with a hug by the gray-suited Nkunda. After a two-hour meeting in a church compound, Obasanjo said the rebel leader agreed to maintain a fragile cease-fire in the Central African nation. "(But) cease-fire maintenance is like dancing tango. One does not dance tango alone," Obasanjo noted.

### Booming Gulf looks overseas for agriculture needs

NAHEL, United Arab Emirates (AP)—In the dunes around this sun-scorched desert village, where camels still plod along dusty roads an hour south of Dubai's skyscrapers, they're making the wasteland bloom. Row upon row of bell peppers grow plump in a temperature-controlled greenhouse. Lilies and roses bud nearby, and strawberries are on their way, all thanks to sophisticated water-saving irrigation. Yet even high-tech establishments like the Mirak Agricultural Services farms here and elsewhere in this riverless country will never feed the region's rapidly growing population. It's that realization that is persuading wealthy Gulf Arabs to look far beyond their shores for more fertile acreage—tens of thousands of acres, in some cases. There are simply too many mouths to feed and not enough water. Lush urban landscaping and ambitious agricultural projects here and in Saudi Arabia—which once spent so much on farm subsidies that it exported surplus wheat—are quickly draining aquifers, including some that are millennia old and cannot be refilled.

### Election a test for Chavez family in home state

BARINAS, Venezuela (AP)—Barinas state is Chavez country. President Hugo Chavez was born here, his father has governed it for 10 years, and now his brother is seeking the governor's job. But as Gov. Hugo de los Reyes Chavez steps down, accusations of inefficiency, corruption and cronyism on his watch have confronted the president's older brother, Adan, with a tight race to keep the governorship in the family. That makes the vote in Barinas one of the most-watched among the 22 gubernatorial races in Venezuela's state and municipal elections next Sunday. President Chavez's foes would love to defeat his brother and compound the humiliation of last year, when voters rejected Chavez's attempt to further strengthen his already firm grip on power by abolishing term limits. Barinas is used to lopsided Chavez victories, and Chavez Sr., a 75-year-old former schoolteacher known to all as "El Maestro," has won his three terms easily.

# Overdrive

## 2008 LAND ROVER LR3 V-8 HSE

# Too rugged for city, too pretty for off-road

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—If the Land Rover sitting in my driveway were a job applicant, it would remain unemployed. It's a full-size 2008 LR3 V-8 HSE sport-utility vehicle. It's over-qualified for any job I have to do, any trip I'm planning to make.

There was a time when that would not have bothered me. I lived for automotive excess. I believed that no car or truck could be over-engineered.

That was before fuel prices went whacko and bank credit disappeared—back when there seemed to be some point to driving a top-end sport-utility vehicle in thick city traffic. But nowadays, motoring through the urban landscape in something like the LR3 V-8 HSE seems more over-the-top than anything else—the equivalent of gearing up for an off-road safari in a shopping center parking lot.

It is a case of marketing gone awry, of a vehicle originally designed for one thing being sold and used as something else—an off-road marauder posing as a luxury statement.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2008 Land Rover LR3 V-8 HSE is what it is: a big, expensive-looking sport-utility vehicle. If you are just looking for seven-passenger transportation, this is an expensive way to go. Shown here is a 2009 LR3 at the New York International Auto Show in March.

The first Land Rover was introduced in 1948 as a special-purpose vehicle designed to be used much in the manner of the famed U.S. military Jeep of World War II. It was utilitarian, not fancy. It thus became the transport of choice in Africa and other regions where super-rugged, versatile vehicles were in demand.

But the business case for such a vehicle in an increasingly urbane and urban world, which is where it tends to be affordable, is rather small, much as it is for America's Hummer, a Land Rover rival.

Both the Hummer—the comparable Hummer H2—and the LR3 V-8 HSE are wonderfully competent in the rough. But neither makes much sense where they are commonly bought and used today—in the urban and suburban communities in wealthy, developed nations.

Consider: After driving the LR3 V-8 HSE for a week, I found little reason to use any of its sophisticated technology, such as its terrain response system, which employs a dial to electronically adjust suspension and traction settings for different road surfaces and conditions—grass, gravel, snow, mud, ruts, sand and rocks.

I started praying for snow, looking for grass and gravel surfaces, and hunting for rocky roads just to play with the terrain response system, which worked quite well. But viewed from another perspective, I wasted a lot of time and fuel searching for roads and driving surfaces that I normally would not have traveled had I been behind the wheel of something other than a LR3 V-8 HSE.

But Land Rover's marketers contend that is the point. The LR3 V-8 HSE and other Land Rover vehicles are designed to encourage adventure, they say.

It's arguable.

Certainly, a model such as the super-rugged, extremely utilitarian Land Rover Defender, currently not on sale in the United States, is expressly designed for rough trekking. But the models sold in this country, such as the LR3 V-8 HSE and its upper crust Range Rover siblings, are designed more for the idea of going off-road than for actually making the trip.

That is not to disparage their competence in an off-road environment. They are every bit as up-to-snuff as the Defender in that regimen. But U.S. models tend to be plush, tufted darlings dressed with pretty exterior paint that no one wants to scratch. No one wants to damage or ruin the fine woods, or the piano-black lacquer finishes of their interiors. The idea of plopping dirty or wet bottoms on one of their supple leather seats is abominable.

In short, the luxury LR3 V-8 HSE is perfectly capable of fording streams, crawling through mud, creeping down hills and climbing rocks. But who in his or her right mind would place it in that kind of jeopardy?

Thus, as constituted, it is the moral equivalent of a museum piece. It is an over-competent, underused, motorized bauble. Add to that the vehicle's size, unnecessarily complicated navigation system and its appetite for premium gasoline—12 miles per gallon in the city, 17 mpg highway—and you get what I got, a vehicle that spends more time in the driveway than it does on the road.

## NUTS & BOLTS

By Warren Brown
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

### COMPLAINT
The 2008 Land Rover LR3 V-8 HSE sport-utility vehicle has commendable talent for the outback. But if it isn't going to be driven in that environment, it becomes a huge waste of money. This is not a ride for the city, where it sucks too much fuel and occupies too much space.

### RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Good in all three categories on-road, but not exceptional in any manner that would lead me to choose it over a lower-priced vehicle with less capability. Exceptional off-road prowess.

### HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It's what it is—a big, expensive-looking SUV.

### BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The LR3 V-8 HSE is a full-size, all-wheel-drive, front-engine, luxury sport-utility vehicle with ladder-frame construction and step roof (elevated rear roof) designed to provide more headroom for rear-seat passengers. It is an off-road vehicle that feels out of its element on city streets.

### ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
It comes with a 4.4-liter, 32-valve V-8 that develops 300 horsepower at 5,500 revolutions per minute and 315 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

### CAPACITIES
There are seats for seven people. Maximum cargo capacity is 90 cubic feet. Maximum payload, the weight of what can be carried onboard, is 1,695 pounds. The LR3 V-8 HSE can be equipped to tow a trailer weighing 7,700 pounds. The fuel tank holds 22.8 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline.

### MILEAGE
12 miles per gallon in the city and barely 17 mpg on the highway.

### SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection, side and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control.

### PRICE
The base price on the 2008 LR3 V-8 HSE is $54,025. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $49,938. Price as tested is $57,550, including $2,750 in options (premium leather seats, navigation and black lacquer interior trim) and a $775 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $53,216. Prices are sourced from Land Rover, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

### PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
Compare with Hummer H2, VW Touareg and Porsche Cayenne. The bottom line is that if you are just looking for seven-passenger transportation, this is an expensive way to go.

# Experts: Supplier woes put auto industry in danger

By BREE FOWLER
AP AUTO WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The financial woes of U.S. automakers have grabbed Washington's attention, but similar problems at auto suppliers have the potential to set off a cataclysmic chain of events in the industry if key parts makers run out of cash and fail.

As with the automakers, auto suppliers' sales have tumbled this year because of the steep drop in demand for new vehicles.

That has forced suppliers to burn through their cash reserves and slash their costs to stay in business, said Craig Fitzgerald, an automotive analyst with Southfield, Mich.-based Plante & Moran PLLP, which advises about 400 small and midsize auto suppliers.

Meanwhile, banks and other credit providers have become dead-set against lending to any company in the faltering automotive industry, making it difficult and expensive for suppliers to get needed financing.

But if the companies at the bottom of the supply chain don't find a way to recapitalize, Fitzgerald warned, numerous bankruptcies and liquidations among the small companies will set off a string of parts shortages that could reach all the way to the vehicle assembly line.

The resulting disruptions could negate any help the government might give General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC.

"Either they deal with the liquidity issues at the lower tier, or these problems have the potential to just devastate the Detroit OEMs and the other automakers," Fitzgerald said, referring to so-called original equipment manufacturers GM, Ford and Chrysler. "It's an issue equal to what's going on at the Big Three, they just don't have the heft, so it doesn't get quite the play."

In most cases, auto suppliers have their own suppliers, who in turn receive their parts from other companies, meaning that many automotive components pass through a chain of several companies before they're sold to an automaker.

"The fragility of the whole thing is very much like a house of cards," said Bob Viswanathan, an assistant professor of operations management at the University at Buffalo School of Management. "Everybody knows that the finance markets are so interconnected, but the auto industry is worse."

Tom Wiethorn, co-owner of Craig Assembly, said orders for his St. Clair, Mich., company's hose connectors—used in radiators that end up in GM and Ford vehicles—have fallen significantly in recent months.

As a result the company, which has $12 million in annual sales, has cut its work force by 20 percent to about 60 people and is worried that it could end up violating its debt agreements.

"This is very serious," said Wiethorn, who also serves as a manufacturing representative setting up contracts for other auto suppliers. "Some of the suppliers I know are teetering on bankruptcy."

The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association is hoping to win a piece of a proposed rescue package that would use $25 billion of the $700 billion financial industry bailout to help GM, Ford and Chrysler.

"We are all connected by some very thin threads and if any piece of the chain from the manufacturers to the small suppliers fails, the whole thing could fail," said Ann Wilson, the association's vice president of government affairs.

Top Republicans, however, have said the Wall Street money should not be used for the auto industry and would only postpone its demise. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama on Sunday called the industry "a dinosaur."

Yet even foreign automakers that build cars and trucks in the United States could be affected. Companies like Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., with plants scattered throughout the South and Midwest, get their parts from the vast, multilayered network of U.S. suppliers that employs about 800,000 people.

# Life & Style

## Victoria's Secret has fashion show in Miami Beach

By LISA ORKIN EMMANUEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MIAMI BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Victoria's Secret's angels have descended upon Miami Beach. Singer Usher kicked off the Victoria's Secret show Saturday, which featured 35 supermodels, some wearing angel wings. Models including Heidi Klum and Adriana Lima strutted down the runway at the newly renovated Fontainebleau Miami Beach during the show, which coincided with the opulent reopening of the hotel.

"The theme of the show is a return to glamour," said company CEO Sharen Turney. "Victoria's Secret is about sexy and the new sexy is glamorous for this season."

The catwalk glittered and two silver palm trees adorned the stage. Models showed 68 outfits, including the $5 million Black Diamond Fantasy Miracle Bra worn by Lima and designed by jeweler Martin Katz. It is decorated with white and black diamonds and rubies, and will be for sale in the company's catalog, Katz said.

"You could wear it as an open top," he said. "It looks like a finished top."

Lima said she was excited to be wearing it.

"I always wanted to wear the Fantasy Bra. It's the first time that Victoria's Secret makes a black diamond bra," Lima said. "A woman could definitely buy it if they love it and men too."

Themes in the show included glamorous goddesses and bold colors with geometric designs influenced from the 1920s. Professional dancers wore one-piece bathing suits for one segment and models got playful with Usher when he performed.

There were also designs from the youthful Pink collection, along with pastels, florals and a black tie theme.

Models wore gilded bras with Swarovski crystals attached. There was also a gold sculpted feather body piece that curved around the model's body. Metal sculpted laurel leaves were also worn around some of the models' necks.

Model Karolina Kurkova wore a bra and underwear in a diaphanous hand-dyed, pleated, draped gown with a leather belt and gilded feather jewelry. Meanwhile, Klum was in a cutaway evening gown of handprinted silk, tulle and duchess satin, decorated with red roses.

Another model wore a crystal yarn, knitted catsuit with a hard leather lacquer belt and boots by Pierre Hardy.

For the Pink collection, a model wore a recycled plastic bag jacket and skirt on top of a handknitted bra and boy briefs.

A model also walked down the runway in a quilted, velvet body corset embellished with ostrich feathers and crystals.

It's "a celebration of sophistication and elegance ... our way to do a new take on holiday celebrations," said Todd Thomas, the costume designer.

For the finale, Klum stepped onto the catwalk in a red bra, underwear and sparkling, red wings, which were made to resemble a bow on a present.

Wing designer Martin Izquierdo made seven pairs of wings for the show. He said he turned to Greek mythology, butterflies and even designed a pair with spiderwebs on rose branches that are composed of crystals.

Miranda Kerr, who wore the wings with the multicolored butterflies, said "it adds a whole theatrical aspect" to the show.

Meanwhile, celebrities spotted on the pink carpet included P. Diddy, Russell Simmons, Michelle Trachtenberg, John Stamos, Kim and Kourtney Kardashian and Martha Stewart.

"We watch the show every year on TV, so it's really cool to see it in person," Kim Kardashian said.

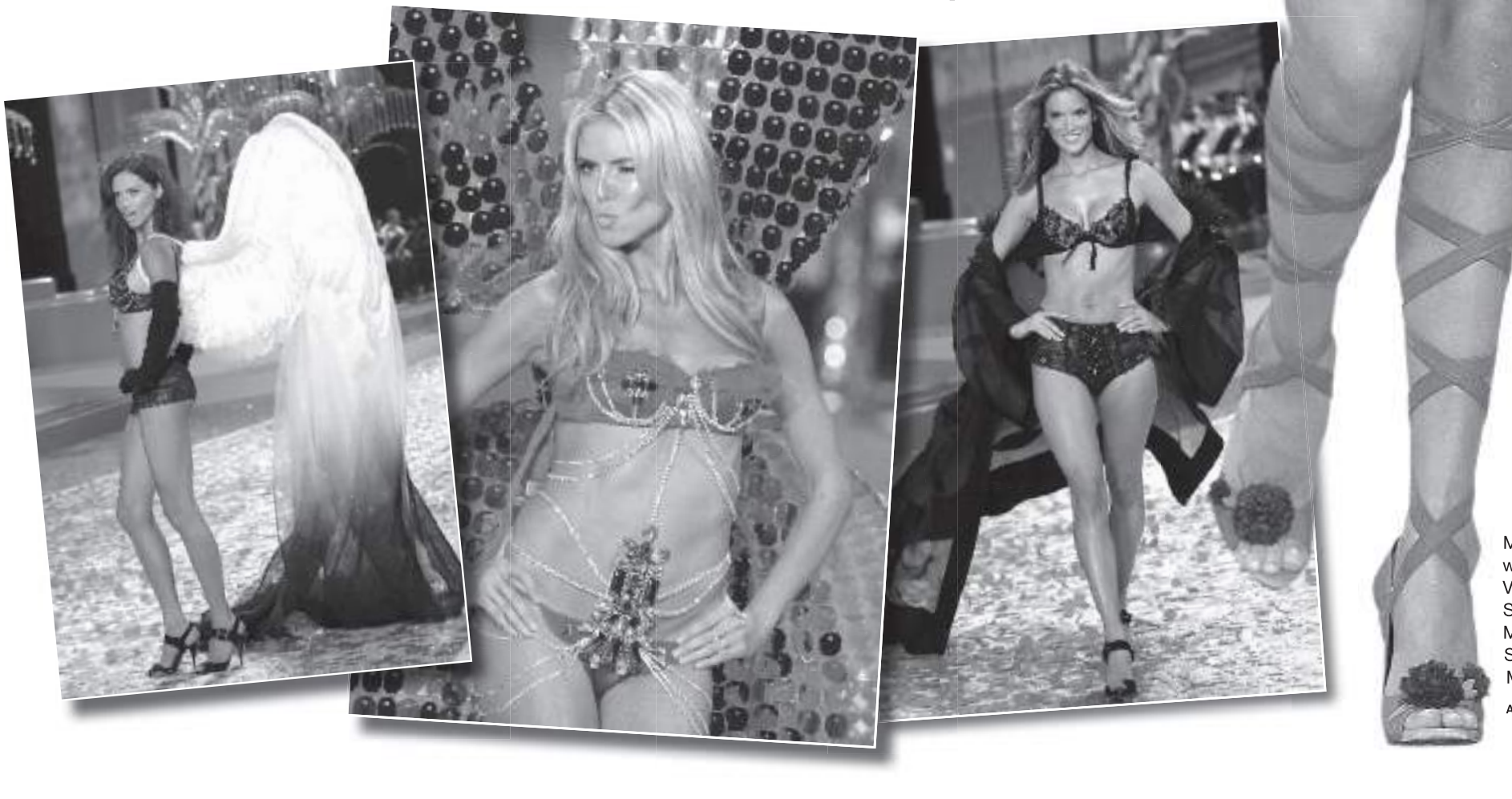
Debbie Harry said she likes the big production.

"The show, it's based on lingerie, but it's about creating an event," she said. "It's just a big, wild extravaganza and I think that's what attracts me."

Ed Razek, chief marketing officer and the show's executive producer, said each year's event has to top the one before.

"It's the most watched fashion show in the world," Razek said. "You've got an obligation to do a better show every year."

The show will air on CBS at Dec. 3 at 10 p.m.



Model Doutzen Kroes walks the runway during Victoria's Secret Fashion Show at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach Hotel on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008 in Miami Beach.

AP

# 'Twilight' time: Vamp tale seeks blockbuster bite

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

AP
Actress Kristen Stewart poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008.

AP
Actor Robert Pattinson poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Girl-meets-boy stories are not the usual stuff of Hollywood blockbusters, even when it's girl-meets-vampire.

Neither are stories created by women, with a predominantly female audience, shot on a bargain budget with a cast of relative unknowns and released by an independent distributor trying to establish a niche among Hollywood's half-dozen studio behemoths.

Yet Summit Entertainment has good reason to believe "Twilight" will have more box-office bite than your typical teen soap about an awkward high school babe and her cool new mystery beau.

"Twilight" has a few stunts and clever visuals, but it's far from the special-effects extravaganzas that dominate the movie business. It was shot for $37 million, a pittance compared with big studio movies that can cost four or five times more.

What "Twilight" does offer is epic star-crossed romance, melodrama, peril, an attractive young cast and an action-packed finale. But mostly, it has arguably the most passionate fan base of any literary adaptation since Harry Potter.

"It's like a little bizarre, little perfect-storm phenomenon," said "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke, who began working on the project less than two years ago and has since seen the books grow from earnest cult status to rabid international fan base. "I knew some people loved it, but I didn't know it would get this kind of crazy buzz."

"Twilight" tells the story of Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), an introspective teen who moves from sunny Phoenix to cloudy Forks, Wash., to live with her divorced dad. At her new school, she is swept up in a supernatural romance with aloof Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), part of a family of eternally young vampires fighting their nature by refusing to feed off humans.

Danger looms: Bella and Edward must keep their passion in check so he won't succumb to the desire to drink her blood. Meantime, he and his family are forced into action to protect Bella against a savage band of roving vampires.

The chief creative forces behind "Twilight" are women: director Hardwicke, screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg ("Step Up," TV's "Dexter") and author Stephenie Meyer, whose four books in the "Twilight" series have sold 18 million copies.

Schoolgirls were the first in the "Twilight" fold, drawn in by the all-consuming obsessiveness of Bella and Edward's forbidden love. "Twilight" reads like a confessional, a young girl's diary loaded with compulsive detail and teen angst.

"I was convinced before I ever met Stephenie that she was a mad person who completely believed she was Bella, and this was just her fantasy," said Pattinson, best known for playing Cedric Diggory in two of the "Harry Potter" films. "It's kind of like voyeurism. ... It seems like it's something like a fan-fiction thing, which was never intended to be read by anyone."

That was the exact intention of Meyer, who wrote "Twilight" late at night while her husband and children slept.

Inspired by a dream she had about a "normal girl and a beautiful vampire that was in love with her and wanted to kill her," Meyer said she created the story for an audience of one.

"No one was going to read it except for me. That's probably why it comes across as so intimate," Meyer said. "It was a story I wrote for one person to be exactly what I wanted to read at that point in my life, the escape that I wanted. And I stepped into this character's shoes, who was very different from me, and I got to live someone else's life. For me, that's what writing is."

Things happened fast once she decided to publish "Twilight." Even before the book came out, Hollywood came calling.

An early version of the script turned the intimate story into a standard action movie, with Bella transformed from solitary teen to an outgoing track star who ends up "strapping on a gun and night vision goggles to go vampire hunting," Meyer said.

Summit Entertainment, a production outfit that had just expanded to film distribution, took over the project after it was shelved by MTV Films. Hardwicke, who made the acclaimed teen drama "thirteen," came aboard to direct, and the gun-toting Bella was scrapped in favor of a faithful adaptation of Meyer's novel.

Since then, the project has taken a seemingly charmed course. Sales of the books surged. The audience broadened from girls to include older women. And another teenager, Harry Potter, graciously moved out of Bella's way.

In late summer, Warner Bros. decided to bump "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" from Nov. 21 to next July. Summit then moved "Twilight" from its Dec. 12 release to Nov. 21, grabbing a prime date just before Thanksgiving, one of the busiest weekends of the year at movie theaters.

"Twilight" will have to contend with the Disney family flick "Bolt," an animated canine adventure opening the same day and featuring the voices of John Travolta and teen idol Miley Cyrus.

No one in Hollywood expects "Twilight" to put up numbers anywhere near a "Harry Potter," whose five installments have averaged $90 million over opening weekend.

Yet in a single weekend, "Twilight" could wind up matching or exceeding the total $48.8 million total domestic grosses of Summit's first five releases over their entire runs. Since debuting a year ago with the fright flick "P2," Summit's receipts have ranged from $1 million for the Christina Ricci fairy tale "Penelope" to $24.8 million for the martial-arts thriller "Never Back Down."

"The Hollywood prognosticators, we're really trying to tune it out," said Erik Feig, president of production for Summit. "What is great is we go into this being very, very happy with the film, so whatever it does, we're going to be thrilled with it. Whatever that number is, we do believe people who are going to see the movie are going to like it."

Girls and women are expected to dominate the audience, making "Twilight" a rare female-driven franchise. Females accounted for 89 percent of advance "Twilight" sales at MovieTickets.com, said Joel Cohen, the company's executive vice president.

Sales for "Twilight" have been brisk, with MovieTickets.com and competitor Fandango.com reporting hundreds of shows already sold out more than a week in advance. Both companies reported that "Twilight" initially was outselling "Quantum of Solace," even though the new James Bond flick opened a week earlier.

A survey of ticket buyers on Fandango.com found that nearly half of the people interested in seeing "Twilight" were over 25.

"It's early teens to up above 50-year-olds," said Rick Butler, Fandango's chief operating officer. "Some of the daughters have encouraged the mothers to see it. Mothers have heard about it and read the novels themselves and want to take their daughters."

Summit has three potential sequels to make if "Twilight" does well enough, so the studio has sought to expand the audience further to pack in young males.

"I feel like girls, the ones who are fans of the book, are going to go see it several times," said Stewart, who starred in the horror tale "The Messengers" and appeared in Sean Penn's "Into the Wild." "But it's funny how the trailers now, they're obviously trying to target boys and make it, like, more full of action."

A solid male audience seems possible, considering "Twilight" features a studly male with superpowers, a pack of ravenous bloodsuckers and fetching young women, both human and vampire.

"I don't see it as only girl-oriented, because I think guys really like vampires, too, and they like hot girls," Hardwicke said. "When we've shown it to our little family and friends screenings, the boys liked it as much as the girls. Just because the early adopters, the first ones that read it, were girls, I don't think it needs to stay there.

"If you're a guy and you want to pick up chicks, you should go see 'Twilight.'"

# Man stabbed at Urban Music Awards show

**LONDON** (AP)—British police say a man is in critical condition after being stabbed at a music awards ceremony in London.

The Metropolitan Police force says the man in his 20s was injured during a brawl at the 6th annual Urban Music Awards. One other person was treated at a local hospital for minor wounds. Police are trying to determine whether others were injured.

Guests said chairs and champagne bottles flew when a brawl broke out during Saturday's show at the O2 arena.

Estelle, Adele, Leona Lewis, Dizzee Rascal and Duffy were among the performers nominated for awards, but organizers called off the ceremony after the violence.

Police are interviewing hundreds of people who attended the show. One man has been arrested.

# Ariz. governor hits big time–an 'SNL' parody

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano has hit a milestone in any politician's career— she was parodied on "Saturday Night Live."

The brief impersonation by cast member Kristen Wiig came during host Paul Rudd's opening monologue.

Rudd discussed the show's popular political impersonations and assured the audience there were plenty of good impressions left to do.

That included Napolitano, a Democrat mentioned as a possible attorney general in Barack Obama's administration.

Wiig then came out donning Napolitano's hairstyle—short and black with a gray spot in the front. She walked offstage awkwardly after giving an oversimplified answer on how she would secure the U.S.-Mexico border.

# Obama interview a big 'get' for CBS' Steve Kroft

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The first time Steve Kroft went to Barack Obama's house to interview him two weeks before his presidential campaign kickoff, Obama's daughter Sasha answered the door.

Don't expect that to ever happen again. Life has changed dramatically for the Obama family, as Kroft learned Friday in Chicago when he conducted the first postelection television interview with Obama. It was for Sunday's "60 Minutes" on CBS.

The interview was a major coup for Kroft, who's marking his 20th year with the CBS News program in the middle of the year's biggest stories—the presidential campaign and the economic crisis.

AP

In this Nov. 14, 2008 photo released by CBS, President-elect Barack Obama speaks with CBS' 60 Minutes reporter Steve Kroft in Chicago.

Kroft was backstage with Obama when the Democrat accepted his party's nomination for president, and met him at other points in the campaign. This week's interview was his sixth, starting with that midwinter 2007 story where Obama took Kroft on a tour of the Chicago projects where he'd worked as a community organizer.

"That was particularly successful for them in getting their campaign going and having a lot of people see him talking," Kroft said. "The fact that we've been there at every critical point is important. We have been tough but fair. After having interviewed someone six times, you build a rapport with him."

Kroft sought an interview for last week's show but was told it was too soon.

Instead, he spoke with the campaign's bleary-eyed top four advisers after 1 a.m. CST on Election Night, an hour chosen by them because they wanted to rest the following few days. Adviser Robert Gibbs barely had a voice. The story helped "60 Minutes" revisit an old haunt: first place in the week's Nielsen Media Research ratings for the first time in nearly five years.

Linda Douglass, a former television journalist who was a spokeswoman for Obama's campaign, said she wasn't a part of the decision to give Kroft the first television interview. But she said Obama feels like Kroft asks intelligent questions that allow him to get a message across.

"It's an old-fashioned professional relationship with a lot of mutual respect - not one of those interviews where you regard the interviewer warily but not one of those interviews where you know you are going to be thrown softballs," Douglass said.

Before he left, Kroft was taking suggestions for questions from around "60 Minutes." He said he wanted to strike a balance between making news and probing the human side about how Obama's life had changed.

"I'm interested to see if he's going to be different," he said. "I thought he was different when he made his (election night) speech in Grant Park. I thought it was an attempt to be presidential. He didn't jaunt out onto the stage. It was much less like a campaign event, and much more like an address."

The Obama interview was his seventh story already this fall season on "60 Minutes." Six of them have led the broadcast. Kroft has been responsible for two of the six duPont awards won by the show since he joined the program, and three of the 13 Peabody Awards. His office is cluttered with Emmys, too.

It was only since Mike Wallace's semiretirement a few years ago that Kroft, 63, said he no longer felt like the "young guy" at "60 Minutes."

"He's the lead player now," said Jeff Fager, the show's executive producer. "He's the first one you see as the broadcast opens. He's the senior veteran of our full-time correspondents. Week after week, especially this fall, he keeps churning out extraordinary stories."

Fager said Kroft often gravitates to the high-degree-of-difficulty stories. When the financial crisis hit, Kroft volunteered to do not one, but two stories on credit default swaps. He considers them some of his best stories because he had to do a lot of studying to learn how to explain complicated ideas to a television audience.

Kroft's most recent Peabody, in 2003, was for a story about conflicts of interest among the government and military contractors. He's reported on Pakistan's instability, the smuggling of nuclear materials out of Russia, and was the first American journalist given access to the contamination nuclear facility in Chernobyl.

Kroft credits Fager with making the broadcast more responsive to current news stories, something viewers expect during a busy news period.

It's also important for a "60 Minutes" correspondent to show versatility and, to that end, Kroft has a story on LeBron James coming up next month. He also hopes to profile the rock band Coldplay to coincide with Grammy nominations.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Quantum of Solace
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Thurs 4:20 7:05
Daniel Craig, Judi Dench
Action, Adventure • Rated PG
Synopsis
Betrayed by Vesper, the woman he loved, 007 fights the urge to make his latest mission personal. Pursuing his determination to uncover the truth, James Bond and M interrogate Mr. White who reveals the organization which blackmailed Vesper is far more complex and dangerous than anyone had imagined. Forensic intelligence links an Mi6 traitor to a bank account in Haiti where a case of mistaken identity introduces Bond to the beautiful but feisty Camille, a woman who has her own vendetta.

Madagascar Escape 2 Africa
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Thurs 4:10 7:25
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG
Synopsis
Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo, King Julien, Maurice and the penguins find themselves in the wildest place of all--the vast plains of Africa—where our zoo-raised crew encounter species of their own kind for the very first time. While discovering their roots, they quickly find the differences between the concrete jungle and the heart of Africa. Despite long-lost relatives, romantic rivals and scheming hunters, Africa seems like a great place–but is it better than their Central Park home?

Role Models
Friday 4:15 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:15 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:15 7:00
Mon and Thurs 4:15 7:00
Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd
Comedy, Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
Two salesmen, Wheeler and Danny, trash a company truck on an energy drink-fueled bender. Upon their arrest, the court gives them a choice: do hard time or spend 150 service hours with a mentorship program. After one day with the kids, however, jail doesn't look half bad. Surrounded by annoying do-gooders, Danny struggles with every neurotic impulse to guide Augie through the trials of becoming a man.

High School Musical 3
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Thurs 4:00 7:10
Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Soul Men
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:15
Mon and Thurs 4:30 7:15
Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie MAc
Comedy • Rated R

Max Payne
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Thurs 4:25 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:05 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:20
Mon and Thurs 4:05 7:20
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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# McCartney hopes to release funky Beatles track

**LONDON** (AP)—Paul McCartney says it's time an experimental Beatles track saw the light of day.

McCartney says he wants to release "Carnival of Light," a 14-minute experimental track the Fab Four recorded in 1967 but never released.

The band played the recording for an audience just once, at an electronic music festival in London. It reportedly includes distorted guitar, organ sounds, gargling and shouts of "Barcelona!" and "Are you all right?" from McCartney and John Lennon.

McCartney said during a recording session at Abbey Road studios he asked the other members of the band to "just wander round all of the stuff and bang it, shout, play it. It doesn't need to make any sense."

"I like it because it's The Beatles free, going off piste," he told the BBC in a radio interview to be broadcast Thursday. Extracts of the interview were published Sunday in The Observer newspaper.

McCartney said he still had a master tape of the piece and "the time has come for it to get its moment."

McCartney, usually regarded as the most melodically minded Beatle, told the BBC he had a long-standing interest in avant-garde music. He said "Carnival of Light" was inspired by experimental composers John Cage and Karlheinz Stockhausen.

This is a Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008. file photo of former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney as he waves during a concert in Tel Aviv, Israel.

He said he had wanted to include the track on the Beatles' "Anthology" compilation, but was vetoed by his bandmates.

McCartney would need permission from Ringo Starr and the widows of Lennon and George Harrison to release the track.

# Bond finds 'Solace' in $70.4M debut

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—James Bond's quantum of the weekend box office: $70.4 million. "Quantum of Solace," with Daniel Craig returning as Bond for the first direct sequel in the spy franchise, pulled in nearly $30 million more over opening weekend than its predecessor, 2006's "Casino Royale," according to studio estimates Sunday.

The debut also topped the previous opening-weekend record for a Bond flick, $47 million for 2002's "Die Another Day."

Adjusting for inflation, Sony's "Quantum of Solace" easily drew a bigger audience than that installment, the last Bond adventure featuring Pierce Brosnan. Based on 2002 admission prices, about 8.1 million tickets were sold for "Die Another Day" in the first weekend, compared to 9.8 million for "Quantum of Solace."

Two years ago, Craig was an unknown quantity as Bond, a stage-trained actor with little action experience and a resume that tended toward small, artsier films. Many fans were unhappy with the casting choice, but the critical and commercial success of "Casino Royale" silenced the critics.

"Quantum of Solace" picks up where "Casino Royale" left off, with Bond seeking to avenge the death of his lover.

"With 'Casino Royale,' people were rediscovering the franchise in a way with Daniel Craig as James Bond," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "Quite frankly, they loved it. They loved the movie, and they loved him in the role, so I think by the time `Quantum of Solace' was ready, audiences in the U.S. as well as the world audience was way ready."

"Quantum of Solace" began rolling out overseas two weekends before its U.S. debut, and its worldwide total now stands at $322 million.

AP

From left to right, producer Barbara Broccoli, Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko and director Marc Forster pose upon arrival at the Australian premier of Quantum of Solace in Sydney, Sydney, Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008. Quantum of Solace is the 2nd 007 James Bond movie for Craig and the 22nd in the series.

DreamWorks Animation's "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," which debuted at No. 1 the previous weekend, slipped to second place with $36.1 million, raising its 10-day total to $118 million.

"Quantum of Solace" gave a huge boost to overall revenues as Hollywood heads toward Thanksgiving, one of the year's busiest weekends at theaters. The top 12 movies took in $142.9 million, up 54 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "Beowulf" led the box office with $27.5 million.

Movie revenue is running 1 percent ahead of 2007's record pace, when the industry took in $9.7 billion, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers. Factoring in inflation, the number of tickets sold this year is 3.5 percent behind 2007's, though.

The next two weekends will bring more likely hits, including the vampire romance "Twilight," John Travolta and Miley Cyrus' animated comedy "Bolt" and Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn's holiday romp "Four Christmases."

"Hollywood is in the best possible position right now, because it's all about momentum, and the industry certainly has that heading into the all-important holiday period," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

Fox Searchlight's "Slumdog Millionaire" had an impressive debut in limited release, taking in $350,434 in 10 theaters for a strong average of $35,043 a cinema. By comparison, "Quantum of Solace" averaged $20,400 in 3,451 theaters.

A film festival favorite, "Slumdog Millionaire" was directed by Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting," "28 Days Later") and follows the alternately heartwarming and horrific life of a poor youth who becomes a contestant on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. ***"Quantum of Solace,"*** $70.4 million.
2. ***"Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa,"*** $36.1 million.
3. "Role Models," $11.7 million.
4. ***"High School Musical 3: Senior Year,"*** $5.9 million.
5. "Changeling," $4.2 million.
6. ***"Zack and Miri Make a Porno,"*** $3.2 million.
7. ***"Soul Men,"*** $2.43 million.
8. ***"The Secret Life of Bees,"*** $2.4 million.
9. ***"Saw V,"*** $1.8 million.
10. ***"The Haunting of Molly Hartley,"*** $1.6 million.

# 'Sopranos' actor on trial in NYPD cop slaying

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Lillo Brancato Jr. was a young actor with a solid resume: He made his debut in 1993 in "A Bronx Tale" opposite Robert De Niro, went on to appear in more than a dozen movies and played a doomed mobster wannabe in HBO's "The Sopranos."

Now, however, at the age of 32, Brancato faces charges of second-degree murder and other crimes in the 2005 killing of police Officer Daniel Enchautegui. Jury selection for his trial begins Monday.

Brancato's real-life troubles began not long after he befriended Steven Armento, a reputed low-level Genovese crime family associate banished for drug addiction, prosecutors say. Then his life went into a tailspin with a pair of drug-related arrests and the death of Enchautegui.

Brancato drove himself and Armento to the home of Enchautegui's next-door neighbor and the pair broke in to steal prescription drugs, prosecutors said. When they were confronted by Enchautegui, who was off duty, Armento shot the officer. Brancato and Armento were both wounded.

Armento, 48, was convicted of first-degree murder Oct. 30 and was sentenced last week to life in prison without parole.

Brancato's attorney, Joseph Tacopina, said his client's case is very different.

"Lillo didn't have a gun. Nor did he know anyone had a gun. Lillo was shot. Lillo wasn't burglarizing anyone's home," he said.

Family and friends of Brancato have said he was a good guy with a drug problem who was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He obviously had problems he kept well hidden, but that doesn't mean he should be held accountable for the actions of the man he was with, especially if that man was under the influence," former "Sopranos" castmate Chris Tardio wrote in an e-mail.

Brancato was discovered at age 15 at Jones Beach on a summer day by the casting director of "A Bronx Tale," directed by co-star De Niro.

AP

Actor Lillo Brancato, Jr. is shown in this Feb. 2005, file photo in New York.

He worked consistently through his teenage years with small roles in "Crimson Tide," and "Enemy of the State," but he never became a huge star. He appeared in half a dozen episodes of "The Sopranos" as soldier Matt Bevilaqua in 2000; his character was killed off in the mob hit's second season.

Along the way, Brancato had befriended Armento while dating one of his twin daughters.

In December 2005, prosecutors said, the actor and the older man decided while drinking at a strip club to break into the basement apartment in a hunt for Valium.

Armento, who had a lengthy rap sheet dating to 1979 that included convictions for possession of stolen property and attempted burglary, was armed with a .357-caliber handgun.

Enchautegui, who had just finished a late-night shift, heard glass breaking next door. He alerted his landlord, dialed 911 to report a possible burglary in progress, then grabbed his badge and a gun and went outside to investigate.

# Bride angles for presents even after groom bails out

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I received an invitation from a family member to attend their daughter "Heidi's" wedding on Father's Day weekend. We canceled our existing plans in order to attend, and gave "Heidi and Dave" an appropriate gift. As the ceremony progressed, the minister asked, "Do you, Steve, take Heidi" ... at which point the guests began whispering to themselves, "STEVE?"

We were embarrassed, thinking we had made a horrible mistake in addressing the gift card—and we weren't the only ones. Finally, after much discussion among the guests, someone approached the bride's mother to ask if we had made a mistake. "Oh, no," she replied. "Dave backed out two weeks ago. Heidi asked Steve if he would marry her, and he said he wasn't doing anything else this weekend, so why not?"

I was flabbergasted. Predictably, in less than three weeks, this sham of a marriage was over. Heidi, of course, retained all the gifts.

My wife says it's no big deal. I say the bride's parents should have called the guests and explained the circumstances so they could make an informed decision about attending. I was also raised to believe that in cases such as this, where the commitment to marriage was so obviously missing, that the gifts should be returned. Am I wrong? This has caused a rift in the family.

JILTED GUEST

**DEAR GUEST: It appears that Heidi and her parents became so involved in the details of the "production" that they forgot the real meaning of the wedding celebration—the joining of two people together in a lifetime commitment to each other. Frankly, I am shocked and disappointed that a minister would go along with such a farce, much less "bless" it. (Could the clergyman also have been a stand-in for the real thing?)**

**Yes, the wedding should have been called off when the groom backed out. Yes, the guests should have been notified. Yes, any unopened or unused gifts should have been promptly returned. And no, you're not wrong.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm looking for a socially acceptable alternative to mailing out 150 Christmas cards to all my husband's co-workers. He is a VP at the company.

I thought about making up a large platter of home-baked cookies and a platter of cheese, crackers and fruit. I would like him to bring them to work and put them in the kitchen with a note that says, "Happy Holidays from (us). This would be in lieu of Christmas cards ... Enjoy!"

I think it's a good idea, but my husband doesn't agree. What do you think?

CHRISTMAS ELF, FOGELSVILLE, PA.

**DEAR CHRISTMAS ELF: I think signing and addressing the cards might be less time-consuming. If you allow two to three cookies per person, you will be baking for days. Are you sure you know what you would be letting yourself in for?**

**Also, I don't know the "culture" at your husband's company and whether they are open to change. If I were you, I'd follow my husband's lead even though it is a chore. Perhaps he should address half of them.**

---

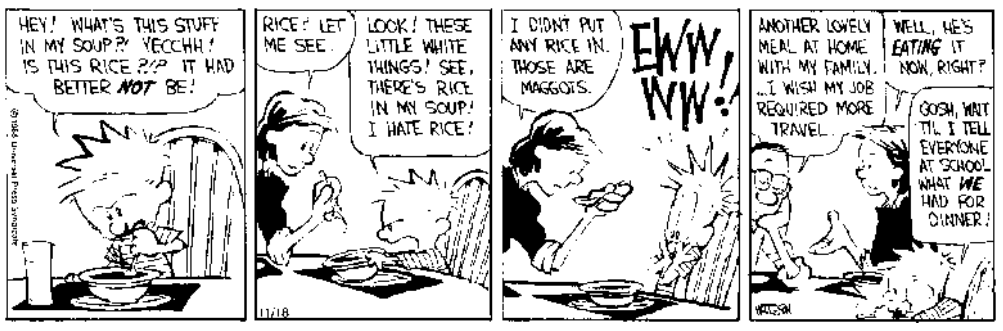
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

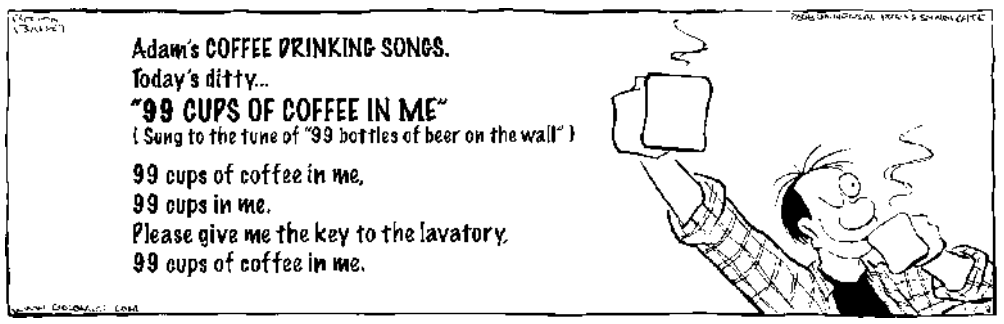

HEY! WHAT'S THIS STUFF IN MY SOUP?! YECCHH! IS THIS RICE?!? IT HAD BETTER NOT BE!
RICE? LET ME SEE.
LOOK! THESE LITTLE WHITE THINGS! SEE, THERE'S RICE IN MY SOUP! I HATE RICE!
I DIDN'T PUT ANY RICE IN. THOSE ARE MAGGOTS.
EWW, WW!
ANOTHER LOVELY MEAL AT HOME WITH MY FAMILY. ...I WISH MY JOB REQUIRED MORE TRAVEL.
WELL, HE'S EATING IT NOW, RIGHT?
GOSH, WAIT TIL I TELL EVERYONE AT SCHOOL WHAT WE HAD FOR DINNER!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

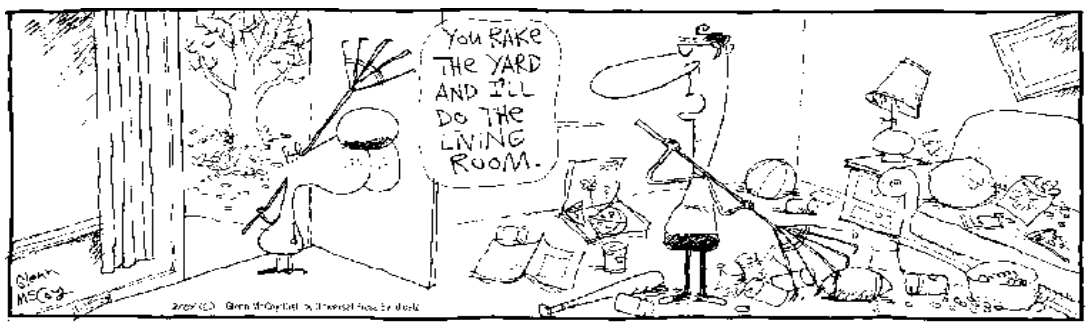
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Adam's COFFEE DRINKING SONGS.
Today's ditty...
"99 CUPS OF COFFEE IN ME"
( Sung to the tune of "99 bottles of beer on the wall" )
99 cups of coffee in me,
99 cups in me.
Please give me the key to the lavatory,
99 cups of coffee in me.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

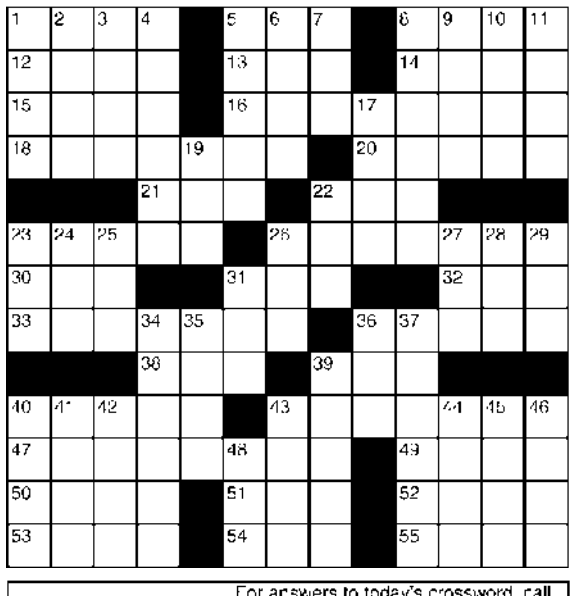
**ACROSS**
1 Easter entree
5 Old, in the dict.
8 Hooters
12 Curved molding
13 Bikini half
14 Bog matter
15 Gator's cousin
16 2008 Shia LaBeouf movie
18 "M*A*S*H" character
20 German painter Max
21 Golfer Ernie
22 Merit badge org.
23 Amulet
26 Marble type
30 Apply lightly
31 Carpet
32 Solemn promise
33 Sleep
36 Line
38 Census statistic
39 Chignon
40 In the group of
43 Marksman
47 Big name in frozen food
49 Summertime desserts
50 Otherwise
51 Pismire
52 Historic times
53 Apocalypse
54 In medias —
55 Foolproof

**DOWN**
1 Ness or Lomond
2 Ta Mahal city
3 Cat call?
4 Ted Danson sitcom
5 Follows orders
6 Scottish hillside
7 Droop
8 Met shows
9 Alternative rock group
10 Potato chip brand
11 Undo a dele
17 For fear that
19 Shade provider
22 Satcho
23 I Ps' successors
24 Scoffer's laugh
25 — Dhabi
26 Poolroom stick
27 Previous night
28 Second person
29 Lamb's dam
31 "Catcher in the —"
34 Partnership, in a sense
35 Quiche maker's needs
36 Sine-non link
37 Briefs et al.
39 Borscht ingredients
40 Sleeping
41 Venus de —
42 Approximately
43 Unit of force
44 Beige
45 Calendar quantity
46 Being, to Brutus
48 Corn spike

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | I | V | E | ■ | M | O | P | ■ | M | A | S | T |
| A | D | E | N | ■ | E | V | E | ■ | E | C | H | O |
| V | E | A | P | ■ | C | A | N | A | D | I | A | N |
| G | A | ■ | O | S | I | ■ | S | M | I | D | G | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | O | P | A | L | ■ | P | U | T | ■ | ■ |
| C | A | N | ■ | I | N | A | S | ■ | M | E | A | T |
| B | R | A | ■ | T | I | M | I | D | ■ | S | P | A |
| S | E | I | S | ■ | C | A | N | I | S | I | E | R |
| ■ | ■ | I | N | N | ■ | S | C | A | M | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | H | O | O | E | D | ■ | L | L | A | N | O | S |
| C | A | N | B | E | R | R | A | ■ | R | O | L | E |
| A | R | A | B | ■ | J | B | I | ■ | T | A | L | E |
| H | E | ■ | Y | ■ | M | I | H | ■ | S | P | A | M |

Yesterday's answer 11-18



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Owen Wilson, 40; Kirk Hammett, 46; Elizabeth Perkins, 48; Linda Evans, 66

**Happy Birthday**: Change is upon you at home and at work. Balance will be your saving grace and your ability to see the big picture will spare you from making a mistake. Love is on the rise and can be brought to a higher level through greater understanding of what you and your partner both want. Your numbers are 1, 7, 18, 20, 26, 33, 42

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let a minor setback ruin your plans. Not everyone will think or do things the same way you do. A financial gain is within reach. Don't be misled by someone who is fearful. ✪✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Don't judge someone too quickly or you will miss out on something enlightening. A false impression regarding your home life will leave people wondering who you really are. You may want to say something to anyone making incorrect assumptions. ✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Spend more time with the ones you love. Family and good friends can make a difference to the outcome of a dilemma you face. With a little tender loving care you can turn your home into a comfort zone. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Booking your next trip will give you greater incentive to work hard, get ahead and make more money. You are overdue for a change of scenery. A relationship you have will open your mind to a host of new adventures. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be excitable and ready to take on the world but, before you do, make sure you have your facts straight and your plans in order. A trip or talks could potentially lead to a better position. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put your best foot forward and volunteer to help others. A love connection can be made if you are single or you can enhance your current relationship by setting some goals as a couple. Commitment will improve your position. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone will be willing to help you out if you ask. A new idea will capture the interest of someone looking for an investment. Don't spend too much on a lover, your home or your family or you will be short of cash at month's end. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful what you reveal. If you say too much, you will be taken advantage of but, if you don't say enough, you will not get the help you need. It will be a fine line. Keep everyone interested but guessing. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There is a moneymaking opportunity right in front of you. Meeting someone halfway will pay off. Stick close to home and do all your bargaining over the Internet or via phone. Be secretive about the information you have. ✪✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put your cash where it can work for you. You need to press forward with something you are familiar with. If it requires relying on someone else, take a pass for now. A change in your current direction is apparent. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A false sense of security may develop if you believe everything you are told. Someone you care about will lead you on regarding his or her feelings. Consider ulterior motives on your part as well as on the part of anyone you are involved with. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't suffer loss because you are being too generous. Love may be a factor in one of your decisions that can influence your status. Before you give in, take a practical look at the possible consequences. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are unique, original and have strength of character. You are playful and fun-loving but also responsible and precise. You welcome debate and ferret out information.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 9 | | | 2 | | | 4 |
| | | 3 | | 1 | 7 | | | |
| 7 | 8 | | | | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| | 9 | | | | | | 6 | |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | | 5 | 9 |
| | | | 8 | 7 | | 3 | | |
| 3 | | | 6 | | | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★ 11/18

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ENTROPY OF THE UNIVERSE** Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | L | D | I | S | O | R | D | E | R | M | H | E | P | E |
| I | H | A | P | A | R | T | I | C | L | E | S | D | R | Q |
| E | N | E | R | G | Y | M | G | S | A | A | S | U | E | U |
| S | E | T | R | U | U | O | A | T | R | S | T | T | S | I |
| D | S | O | E | M | T | T | I | A | T | U | R | I | S | L |
| E | W | E | I | R | O | A | N | T | F | R | U | N | U | I |
| T | L | X | C | C | A | D | N | E | I | E | C | G | R | B |
| I | A | P | H | O | O | C | Y | P | R | T | T | A | F | R |
| M | T | A | I | M | R | T | T | N | D | T | U | M | L | I |
| E | O | N | A | C | U | P | M | I | A | A | R | F | E | U |
| S | V | S | E | R | N | R | A | E | O | M | E | O | M | M |
| S | S | I | M | T | O | I | G | T | T | N | I | R | E | O |
| S | W | O | R | K | X | N | R | T | H | S | O | C | N | V |
| O | I | N | N | D | A | E | R | P | S | S | Y | E | T | E |
| L | S | O | U | R | C | E | C | N | E | I | C | S | S | S |

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Atom, Chaos, Disorder, Drift, Drive, Elements, Energy, Equilibrium, Expansion, Extent, Forces, Gain, Grow, Heat, Interaction, Loss, Magnitude, Mess, Matter, Maximum, Measure, Moves, Natural, Particles, Path, Pressure, Principle, Process, Random, Range, Science, Source, Speed, Spread, State, Structure, System, Thermodynamic, Time, Turmoil, Work

**Yesterday's Answer: Selection**

Treasures available for purchase by sending a personal check for $19.95 per puzzle book (postage and handling included for the first book, $3.95 for each additional book) to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6562. Order by credit card or online at www.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

Apartment Room for Rent.
2 Bedroom $210.00. Koblerville.
Contact: Mr. Yoon @ 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

## Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?

*Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?*

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

**Requirements:**

- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

**Benefits:**

- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

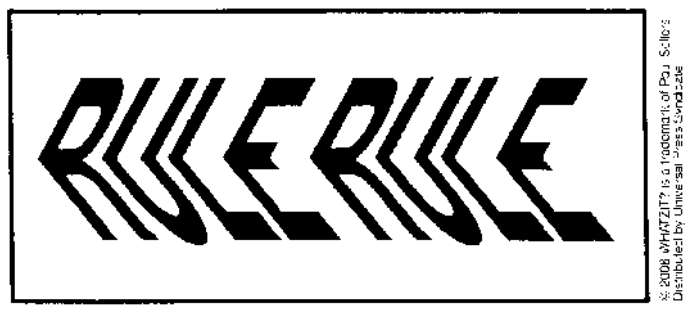
Apply in person at…

Marianas Eye Institute
*"Where Technology Meets Talent"*

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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**Find today's solution in this section**

## BEAUTY SALON FOR SALE

Pls. contact the Agent
Ms. Chelita
235-3572 / 285-5572

WHATZIT Solution: Bend the rules

## NEED PROPERTIES

**We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.**

*"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"*

15 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

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Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

**DRUNK DRIVING**
*Over the limit. Under arrest.*

## Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission

P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950

## Position: Executive Director

**How To Apply:**
Interested applicants should send a letter of interest along with a resumé to:

**Viola Alepuyo, Chairperson**
**Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission**
**Caller Box 1000, Saipan, M.P. 96952**

Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than **Monday, November 24th.** If you have any questions concerning this position, please contact Ms. Alepuyo at (670) 233-8535/6.

**WHO MAY APPLY:**
The CPUC will consider all applications meeting the minimum qualifications and interview the most qualified candidates.

**Description:**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**
Under the direction of the Commissioners, the Executive Director performs a variety of administrative duties, requiring independent action and initiative, personally handling a variety of sensitive Commission issues. Duties must be performed at the highest degree of competence.

The Executive Director oversees the overall operation of the Commission's office. The Executive Director is expected to have general knowledge of CPUC's enabling act and is expected to track legislative decisions affecting CPUC to ensure that members of the Public Utilities Commission shall be integrally and directly involved in, and accountable for, the commission's decisions.

The Executive Director collects, reviews and organizes all material required for the Commission to properly preside at meetings and hearings and coordinates with other agencies, utility companies, reporters and staff in arranging meetings and hearings. The Executive Director also independently researches, organizes and provides background information on sensitive correspondence issues requiring the personal attention of the Commission.

The Executive Director oversees the effective and efficient office operations and maintains Commission records pursuant to public policy. The Executive Director assists in preparing and maintaining the Commission's annual budget, track office expenses, prepares travel arrangement and justification pursuant to CNMI public law. The Executive Director is expected to assist in the preparation of other reports as required by CNMI law and regulation and other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

**REQUIRED EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS:**
Applicants must be able to communicate effectively, work independently, be able to organize and prioritize assignments, work under pressure, execute sound judgment and exercise a high degree of confidentiality, independence and initiative in performing a variety of tasks. In addition, applicant must display discretion, tact, poise and be diplomatic in dealing with a wide variety of people as well as a wide range of inquiries.

**Requirements:**

- High School Diploma and previous work experience in an administrative capacity with a minimum of 5 years of related experience;
- Candidate must demonstrate ability to produce high-quality work products with attention to detail;
- Candidate must be highly proficient with desktop application such as Word, Excel and Power Point;
- Excellent English, composition, spelling and grammar;
- Excellent communication skills, oral and written, which demonstrate a professional approach in representing CPUC

**Preferred:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Business or related field and previous work experience as an administrator with 3 years of related experience;
- General knowledge of administrative practices and principles;
- Office Management skills

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

| ADS (7DAYS) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $25 |
| • 5-Liner | $35 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $45 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $55 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# Eagles, Bengals play to 13-13 tie

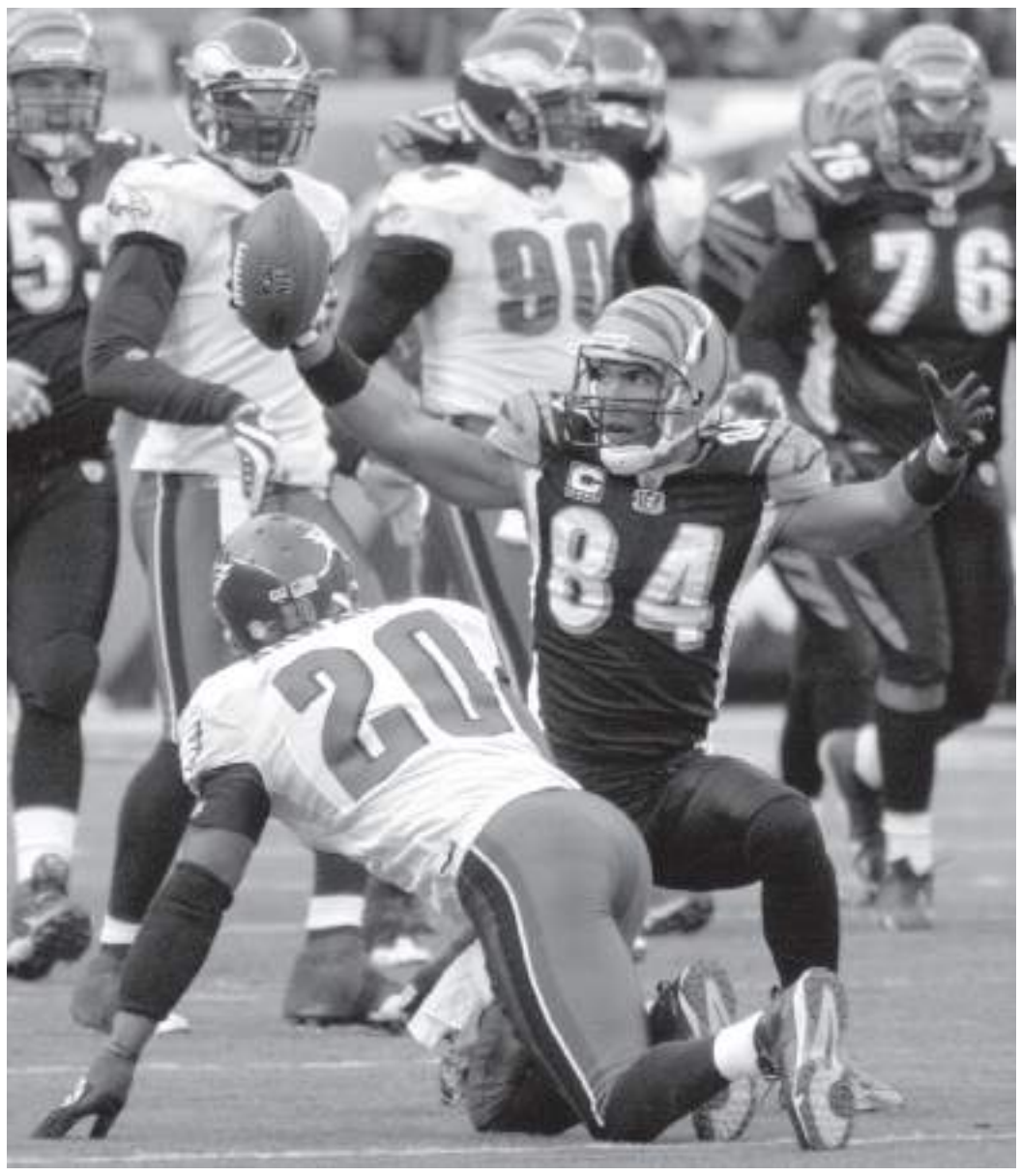
CINCINNATI (AP)—Donovan McNabb fumbled and threw three interceptions in regulation, and nearly had another pass picked off in overtime Sunday as the Eagles and Bengals played to a 13-13 tie, the NFL's first in six years.

Cincinnati's Shayne Graham missed a 47-yard field goal with 7 seconds left in overtime, falling to the ground as the ball sailed a few inches wide to the right.

It was the first tied game in the NFL since Nov. 10, 2002, when the Falcons and Steelers finished 34-34 with Michael Vick and Tommy Maddox matching each other pass for pass. In this one, the teams matched each other gaffe for gaffe.

The Eagles (5-4-1) have yet to win a close game this season, going 0-4 with a tie in games decided by less than a touchdown. McNabb had a big hand in this one, matching his career high with three interceptions and setting up 10 of Cincinnati's points.

Each team had three chances in the extra 15-minute quarter, but only the Bengals (1-8-1) got close enough to try a field goal.Considering what went on the previous three hours, no one was surprised when Graham, 6-for-6 this season from 40-49 yards away, sliced it just outside the right upright.



AP

Cincinnati Bengals receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh (84) looks up after making a first down against Philadelphia Eagles safety Brian Dawkins (20) in overtime of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, in Cincinnati.

### Titans 24, Jaguars 14

At Jacksonville, Florida Kerry Collins threw three touchdown passes, Albert Haynesworth dominated defensively again and the Titans improved to 10-0. Tennessee overcame a 14-3 halftime deficit, got solid play from third-string cornerback Chris Carr and extended its franchise-record winning streak in the regular season to 13. The Titans also won their seventh consecutive regular-season road game.

The Jaguars (4-6) lost for the fourth time in six games, fell six games behind AFC South leader Tennessee and probably ended any chance they had of returning to the postseason.

Collins was at his best when the team needed him most, directing consecutive touchdown drives in the third quarter that turned an 11-point deficit into a three-point lead. He sealed the victory with a perfect 38-yard TD pass to Justin Gage with 3:57 remaining.

### Steelers 11, Chargers 10

At Pittsburgh, the only thing perfect on a snowy, frigid day when the weather and the offenses were equally awful was San Diego's regular-season record in Pittsburgh.

Make it 0-13, losing the first 11-10 final in NFL history.

Ben Roethlisberger stayed away from the mistakes that cost the Steelers their previous two home games, Willie Parker ran for 115 yards and Jeff Reed's third field goal won it—a 32-yarder with 11 seconds remaining.

The unusual final score was in jeopardy when Troy Polamalu returned an errant lateral 12 yards for an apparent touchdown on the final play. But it was overturned on replay—called an illegal forward pass—and the 11-10 score was restored.

The Steelers outgained the Chargers 410-213, and most teams with a 300-yard passer and a 115-yard rusher normally have plenty of offense. But the Steelers couldn't get into the end zone even as Roethlisberger went 31-of-41 for 308 yards, partly because they had 13 penalties for 115 yards to San Diego's two for 5 yards.

A snow squall about 45 minutes before the late-afternoon kickoff left Heinz's grass surface snowy white at the start and snow splotches remained the rest of the game.

### Cowboys 14, Redskins 10

At Landover, Tony Romo overcame a pair of first-half interceptions to complete 19 of 27 passes for 198 yards and threw a 25-yard pass to rookie Martellus Bennett for the winning touchdown in a 14-10 victory over the Washington Redskins.

The victory gave the Cowboys a season split against their NFC East rival and improved their record to 6-4, tied with the Redskins and a half-game ahead of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Dallas had gone 2-4 after a 3-0 start and performed miserably on offense during Romo's absence because of a broken finger. Fortuitously, last week's bye gave Romo, cornerback Terence Newman and left guard Kyle Kosier a chance to heal.

### Cardinals 26, Seahawks 20

At Seattle, Kurt Warner completed 32 of 44 passes for 395 yards—his franchise-record fourth straight 300-yard game—and J.J. Arrington scored a career-high two touchdowns. The 37-year-old veteran completed 19 of his first 21 passes, while Anquan Boldin, who had 13 catches for a career-best 186 yards, and Larry Fitzgerald—10 receptions, 151 yards—roamed free all day in Arizona's first win at Seattle since 2002.

The Cardinals are 7-3 for the first time since 1977, when they were in St. Louis. Arizona can clinch its first division title since 1975 next week when it hosts the Giants and San Francisco plays at Dallas.

### Giants 30, Ravens 10

At East Rutherford, New Jersey not even Ray Lewis and the Ravens' league-best rushing defense could avoid becoming the Giants' latest victims. Bruising Brandon Jacobs pounded his way into the end zone on a pair of 1-yard runs and the Giants' league-leading running attack ran for 207 yards—New York's third straight 200-yard game.

Aaron Ross iced the game by returning one of his two interceptions 50 yards for a third-quarter touchdown as the Giants (9-1) won their fifth straight game overall, and sixth straight at home.

Lawrence Tynes added a short field goal after a 77-yard run by Ahmad Bradshaw for the final score. Tynes got the nod over veteran John Carney, who was inactive on the windy day despite leading the league with 90 points.

### Panthers 31, Lions 22

At Charlotte, North Carolina, DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart dazzled with a record setting day on the ground for Carolina. Stewart rushed for a career-high 130 yards and a touchdown, Williams added 120 yards and two more scores.

The Panthers (8-2) won their fourth straight game by setting a team record with 264 yards rushing in the first time two of their backs rushed for over 100 yards in the same game. Carolina surpassed last year's win total and stayed atop the NFC South.

Daunte Culpepper, returning to the scene of his career-changing knee injury three years ago, got the Lions (0-10) within 24-22 on his 1-yard plunge with 6:05 left. Culpepper called his own number again on the 2-point conversion try, but was stopped short of the goal line as Jon Beason grabbed his facemask.

No penalty was called, and the Lions quickly folded to keep their chances of becoming the league's first winless team over 16 games.

### Bucs 19, Vikings 13

At Tampa, Florida, Jeff Garcia threw for 255 yards without an interception and scrambled for two first downs on a time-consuming go-ahead field goal drive in the fourth quarter.

Garcia completed 23 of 30 passes. He moved the Bucs 69 yards in 13 plays, burning nearly 9 minutes off the clock to take a 16-13 lead on Matt Bryant's third field goal.

Minnesota fumbled on the ensuing kickoff, Tampa Bay (7-3) recovered and Bryant added his fourth field goal for a six-point lead with 3:30 to go. The Vikings (5-5) had two opportunities to put together a winning drive, but turned the ball over on downs with 2:24 left and lost a fumble on their final possession.

### Broncos 24, Falcons 20

At Atlanta, Jay Cutler threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Daniel Graham with 5 1/2 minutes remaining, handing the Falcons their first loss of the season at home.

Michael Turner scored on a 28-yard run to put Atlanta ahead 20-17 with just under 11 minutes left, but the Broncos (6-4) pulled out their second straight road victory. Atlanta (6-4) had won its first four games at the Georgia Dome and four of five overall.

The Broncos played without star cornerback Champ Bailey and all three of their projected starters at linebacker. Spencer Larsen started at both middle linebacker and fullback, the first player in team history to pull off that double.

### Colts 33, Texans 27

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning spent one half deciphering the Houston defense. He spent the final two quarters cutting it up.

The two-time league MVP led Indianapolis on four straight scoring drives in the second half, wiping out two Houston leads. Indy (6-4) won its third straight, a season best, as it stayed near the top of the muddled mass battling for the AFC's two wild-card spots.

Manning took advantage of every opportunity, finished 30-of-46 for 320 yards with two touchdowns, and magnificently mixed the run and pass in the second half when Houston (3-7) couldn't keep up with the Colts.

Steve Slaton ran 14 times for 156 yards, a Texans franchise record for a rookie, and scored on a 71-yard run, the longest in team history.

### Packers 37, Bears 3

At Green Bay, Ryan Grant rushed for 145 yards and a touchdown to boost the Packers' playoff hopes.

The Packers (5-5), now tied atop the NFC North with the Bears and Vikings. It also was the Packers' first home victory over the Bears since Lovie Smith took over as Chicago's coach.

Kyle Orton started at quarterback for the Bears after sitting out last Sunday's game with a sprained right ankle. But Orton was outplayed by Aaron Rodgers, who completed 23 of 30 passes for 227 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

### Dolphins 17, Raiders 15

At Miami, Dan Carpenter kicked a 38-yard field goal with 38 seconds left to cap a 61-yard drive, and the Dolphins earned their fourth consecutive victory.

Johnnie Lee Higgins scored on a 93-yard punt with 4:30 left to give the Raiders their first lead, but Miami shook off the stunning score. Chad Pennington moved the Dolphins downfield in 10 plays, completing a 7-yard pass on fourth-and-5 to Ted Ginn Jr. to keep the drive alive.

Oakland (2-8) lost its fourth in a row, and Tom Cable fell to 1-5 as interim coach.

### Saints 30, Chiefs 20

At Kansas City, Drew Brees, directing the NFL's top-ranked offense, threw for 266 yards and one touchdown against the league's worst defense.

Lance Moore had eight catches for 102 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown strike. It was the first victory in five road games for the Saints (5-5), who haven't played in their own stadium since Oct. 12 and had to count a win in London over San Diego as a home game.

Tyler Thigpen's second touchdown pass to Dwayne Bowe brought the Chiefs (1-9) within seven points with 13:54 left. But Brees led the Saints on a time-consuming, 12-play drive capped by Garrett Hartley's third field goal, a 35-yarder, to make it a 10-point game.

A moment later, Thigpen was intercepted by Usama Young, ending a string of 161 straight passes without a pick. The former seventh-round draft pick, making his fifth start, was 19-of-38 for 235 yards and two TDs. He was also sacked four times, including twice by defensive end Jeff Charleston.

Running back Larry Johnson, who had been benched three games by the Chiefs and suspended one by the league, had 67 yards on 19 carries.

### 49ers 35, Rams 16

At San Francisco, Shaun Hill threw two touchdown passes and Frank Gore rushed for another score during the 49ers' 28-point second quarter that helped snap their six-game losing streak with interim coach Mike Singletary's first victory.

Vernon Davis and Bryant Johnson caught TD passes from Hill, who went 15-of-20 for 213 yards and ran for a second-quarter score in San Francisco's first win since Sept. 21 against Detroit, when the 49ers were above .500 with a different coach and starting quarterback.

Singletary had lost twice, including last Monday's tough defeat in Arizona, since taking over for Mike Nolan and replacing J.T. O'Sullivan with Hill.

Bulger went 34-of-53 for 295 yards for the Rams (2-8), who trailed by 32 at halftime just one week after falling behind 40-0 midway through a 44-point loss to the New York Jets.

# Dirk, Dallas beat Knicks in OT, 124-114

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki scored seven of his season-high 39 points in overtime and grabbed 15 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks snapped a five-game losing streak with a 124-114 victory over the New York Knicks on Sunday.

Josh Howard added season highs of 31 points and 14 rebounds. He had a pair of baskets in the extra session for the Mavericks (3-7), who were off to their worst start in a decade. They trailed for almost all of regulation, then tied it with a furious rally and didn't allow a field goal in overtime.

Nowitzki made a pair of free throws to open overtime, giving Dallas its first lead since it was 6-4. He followed with a jumper, and after a free throw by Brandon Bass, Nowitzki buried a 3-pointer, pumping his fists in the air after giving the Mavericks a 120-112 lead.

Howard followed with his two baskets, part of Dallas' closing 19-2 run. The Knicks didn't have a field goal after Richardson's basket with 2:28 remaining in regulation that made it 112-105.

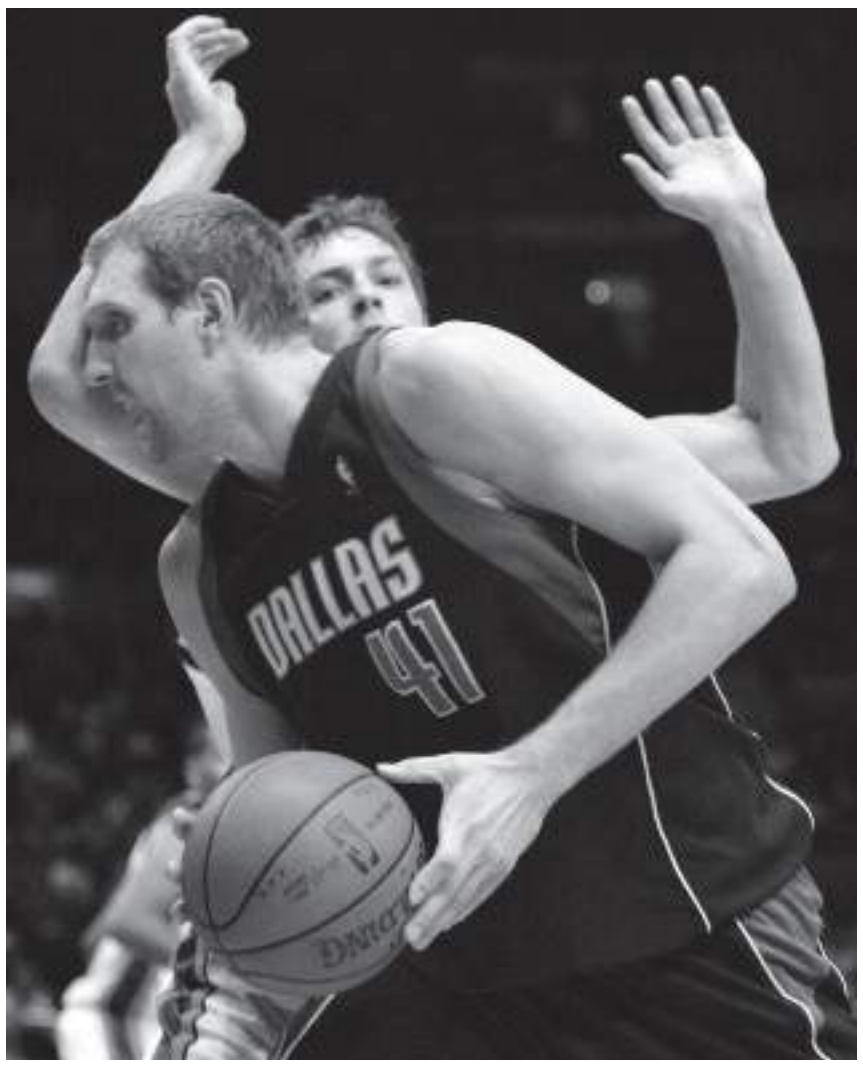
Jason Terry scored 16 of his 20 points after halftime for the Mavs, who avoided their first six-game skid since Feb. 29-March 9, 2000. Reserves James Singleton and Brandon Bass each added 12.

Zach Randolph had 27 points and 18 rebounds for the Knicks, who were 0-for-9 in overtime and lost for the first time this season when scoring 100 points.

Quentin Richardson had 17 points and Chris Duhon added 16 points and 12 assists. Jamal Crawford also had 16 points.

The Mavericks went with a small lineup in the second half, matching up with the Knicks by benching starting center Erick Dampier. Terry scored 14 points in the period in the third quarter, trimming it to 91-89 heading to the fourth.

The Mavs were down two again midway through the fourth after scoring seven straight, but David Lee had a basket before Richardson nailed a 3-pointer to push it to 110-103 with 3 1/2 minutes to go. Dallas responded again to make it 112-110 on Nowitzki's bucket with 1:27 remaining, and finally pulled even on Terry's jumper with 38 seconds left.



AP

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41), of Germany, drives past New York Knicks' forward David Lee during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

After a couple of misses by Richardson, the Mavs called a timeout and got the ball to Terry, who was short on a jumper from the top of the key.

The Knicks made seven of their first eight shots and had an answer for every Dallas rally for most of the game. But the Mavs scored the final seven points of regulation, fighting for loose balls and crashing the boards in desperation.

Randolph made first seven shots and New York shot 60 percent in the first quarter, leading by as much as 13 before settling for a 35-26 advantage. The Knicks, pushing the pace at every opportunity, opened a 15-point cushion just under halfway through the second on David Lee's basket.

But with Wilson Chandler on the bench with a third foul, the Knicks had no answer for Nowitzki, who broke free for 13 points in the final 6:05 of the half as Dallas cut it to 64-57 at the break.

### Magic 90, Bobcats 85

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points to lead Orlando.

Mickael Pietrus added 18 points, Rashard Lewis had 17 and Jameer Nelson 15 for Orlando. All-Star center Dwight Howard was shut down by Charlotte's defense, scoring just four points, and fouled out for the first time this season.

Gerald Wallace scored 17 points for the Bobcats.

### Raptors 107, Heat 96

At Toronto, Chris Bosh scored 27 points, and Jermaine O'Neal had 11 points and 18 rebounds to help Toronto snap a two-game losing streak.

Dwyane Wade scored 29 points for Miami.

### Suns 104, Pistons 86

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire had 29 points and 11 rebounds on his 26th birthday and the Suns overcame Shaquille O'Neal's second-quarter ejection.

Steve Nash, back from a one-game suspension for his part in a skirmish with several Houston players, added 17 points and seven assists for the Suns, who already were without two players before O'Neal was ejected for a flagrant foul with 5:19 left in the first half.

Richard Hamilton scored 19 for the Pistons.

### Spurs 90, Kings 88

At Sacramento, Michael Finley scored 21 points and Tim Duncan had 20, including two key baskets in the final minute, for San Antonio.

Duncan's short jumper tied it with 49 seconds left and his bank shot off a drive put San Antonio ahead for good at 90-88 with 15.5 seconds remaining.

John Salmons had a season-high 31 points for the Kings.

### Nuggets 90, Timberwolves 84

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored 26 points, J.R. Smith had eight of his 14 points in a decisive fourth-quarter stretch and the Denver Nuggets overcame poor shooting to hand Minnesota its eighth straight loss.

Carmelo Anthony added 14 points and 12 rebounds to help Denver improve to 5-1 since the Nuggets acquired Billups in the trade that sent Allen Iverson to Detroit.

Al Jefferson had 20 points and 14 rebounds, and Randy Foye added 18 points for Minnesota. The Timberwolves haven't won since beating Sacramento in their opener.

## *Report: Knicks, Marbury talking buyout*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Donnie Walsh is against buyouts and Stephon Marbury is opposed to taking one.

So even though the two met Thursday, neither gave an indication that anything happened to speed up Marbury's long goodbye from the New York Knicks.

The New York Post reported Friday that Walsh, the team president, and Marbury met Thursday at the team's practice facility for preliminary discussions about a buyout. Marbury confirmed the meeting before the Knicks faced the Oklahoma City Thunder, but provided no details.

"There's nothing going on, man," Marbury said. "There's nothing going on but a humbling experience. That's it, the only thing that's going on here in the New York Knicks' organization as far as me."

Marbury gave the "nothing going on" response seven times, then went out to the court to warm up. After that, he changed out of his uniform, not needing it because he was inactive for the eighth straight game.

The point guard isn't in coach Mike D'Antoni's plans, so a parting of ways seems best for both the player and the team. The sticking point is money.

Walsh has said he's against buying out contracts, a standard operating procedure under Isiah Thomas' Knicks. Marbury is owed more than $21 million in the final season of his contract, and he's repeatedly said he won't take less to leave.

Asked if anything would make Marbury change that stance, he said: "Would you accept anything less if somebody owed you money? If I owed you $100, right, and I said to you I don't want to give you $100, I want to give you $80, what would you say?"

Marbury could potentially make up the difference—maybe even earn more—if he accepted a buyout offer that was close to his full salary, then signed with another team. There would also be a minimal saving for the Knicks in that case.

But Walsh won't say if he'd consider changing his position.

"I'm not going to confirm, deny ... I'm not going to make any comment about the Stephon Marbury situation," Walsh said. "I said that about a week ago and I haven't said anything to anybody since then."

D'Antoni hasn't ruled out Marbury playing for the Knicks again this season, but it seems unlikely. He's even kept injured players on the active roster for games this week instead of dressing the longtime starter.

# For Wood, departure from Cubs is 'bittersweet'

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Kerry Wood prepared himself mentally and emotionally last season, knowing it might be his last one with the Chicago Cubs. Turned out, it was.

Wood wanted to stay with the only team he's ever pitched for, but the economic realities of the game and the team's needs in other areas prevented that from happening.

After recovering from serious shoulder problems and numerous injuries that have sidetracked his career as a starter, Wood became a top closer last season. And now as a free agent, he can hit the market and command a multiyear contract that the Cubs were not willing to offer.

"It's bittersweet. Obviously this is my first choice. I wanted to stay here and the best choice for me and my family. ... But that's part of baseball right now," Wood said in a conference call Friday.

Wood's comments came one day after the Cubs traded for Marlins reliever Kevin Gregg. General manager Jim Hendry told reporters that the fair thing was for the team to let Wood get a deal he deserved.

The GM had already told Wood face-to-face what the Cubs were planning and that getting him a multiyear was not one of the top priorities. On Friday, Wood lauded Hendry for his honesty.

Chicago hopes to bring back free agent starter Ryan Dempster—the guy Wood replaced as closer last season—and add some left-handed offensive punch.

But Wood is one of the most popular players in team history. He pointed out that Cubs fans watched him grow up from a "pimply faced, 17-year-old, and when my tenure is done I'm leaving married with two kids."

He's also leaving with a bag full of memories—a 20-strikeout game against the Astros in 1998 in his fifth major league start when he went on to become the NL Rookie of the Year; a 2003 season when he helped the Cubs reach Game 7 of the NLCS, where he started and lost despite hitting a home run.

"I choked," he said the night of that defeat.

Wood said this season was one of the most gratifying he's ever experienced.

After winning the closer's role in spring training, he saved 34 of 40 games, his fastball blazing in the mid 90s mph again. He pretty much reinvented his career with the impressive return.

That career appeared to be nearly over in 2007 as he battled shoulder problems for a third straight season. But he made a stirring comeback in August that year after the pain in his shoulder mysteriously went away and pitched well in relief.

He's made 12 trips to the disabled list and missed the entire 1999 season after elbow ligament replacement surgery.

"I would love to change that, but can't change that," he said. "I couldn't change it at the time. Those things happen. I don't think this year would have been as rewarding as it was, if I hadn't gone through those things."

He said he'd given a great deal of thought to what it might be like to return to Wrigley Field and play against the Cubs in a different uniform

"It will be tough sitting on the other side," he said.

Wood signed a three-year, $32.5 million deal in March of 2004 and when that expired after his rash of injuries, he got one-year deals in each of the last two seasons.

He said he would have been agreeable to another one-year deal.

"Yeah. I think that avenue was kind of approached, but again like I said, they've got some issues they've got to take care of," Wood said. "It is what it is. It didn't work out."

Now Wood hopes to find a new job as quickly as possible, saying he wants to go to a team with a chance to win—preferably in the National League—and a place with a good atmosphere for his family. He plans to keep a home in Chicago where he and his wife are involved in charity work.

In 10 seasons over 11 years with the Cubs, Wood compiled a 77-61 record with a 3.65 ERA and 1,407 strikeouts in 276 games.

Wood said the incessant talk of the 100-year anniversary of the Cubs' last World Series winner got old, but didn't really bother him this past season. Chicago won the NL Central for the second straight year, only to be swept out for the second straight year in the first round.

And if the Cubs do finally make a run deep into the playoffs as they were expected to this season, it will be without their familiar No. 34.

"I'm disappointed I won't be on the team that does it," Wood said.

# Daniel keeps clean record in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Daniel reasserted its mastery over Jeremiah, notching a 90-78 win in their second meeting in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Daniel and Jeremiah collided for the first time late last month with the former cruising to a 94-77 victory. The same teams dueled in last season's finals with Jeremiah stunning the then pennant champion Daniel, 105-84.

A different Jeremiah crew is playing this season and has yet to show the form that brought the team to the championship. The defending champion dropped two of its last three games and has only one win after Friday's game.

In contrast, Daniel is still clean after four matches.

Daniel began taking control of the game midway in the first half with Elmer Esdrelon, Alex Lauron, and Brendo Talania trading baskets.

Esdrelon and Talania finished with 10 points apiece in the first half, while Lauron chipped in nine, as Daniel posted a 37-29 halftime lead.

No Jeremiah player scored in double figures in the first half with Wowie Abuel making only eight.

Abuel tried to bring his team back into the game in the second half, as he exploded for 23 points. But he had only Amor Casabuena helping him adding 14 markers.

The trio of Esdrelon, Talania, and Lauron continued to work wonders for Daniel and they drew support from their teammates to beat Jeremiah anew.

The trio combined for 30 of Daniel's 53 points in the second half. Sam Fernandez contributed eight, George Barbo had six, and Ricky Dela Paz and Rey Culala tallied five and four markers, respectively.

Abuel led all scorers with his 31 points.

**Daniel 90**—Esdrelon 10, Talania 20, Lauron 19, Fernandez 10, G. Barbo 8, Dela Paz 7, Vulala 4, Ong 2.

**Jeremiah 78**—Abuel 31, Casabuena 20, Dimaano 7, Montano 7, Olivos 6, McAskell 6, Buenabajo 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 37-29, 90-78.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel's Rey Culala, left, and Jeremiah's Amor Casabuena battle for the rebound during their game in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

## NATIBU

From Page 28

Man Amigos' defense shut out Natibu at the top of the first allowing the former to take a 4-0 lead.

Back-to-back triples from J.D. Dikito and extra hitter Bruce Norita sparked Natibu's comeback in the second inning, which ended with Man Amigos ahead by only one, 4-3. Dikito had a two-run triple at the top of the second, while Norita's triple drove one runner home in the same inning.

Man Amigos made another homer at the bottom of the third with Jesus Iguel on the connecting end, but earlier at the top of the third Natibu scored six runs.

Man Amigos had only three runs in the third inning allowing Natibu to seize the lead, 9-7.

Natibu continued to sizzle adding six more runs in the fourth inning and never relinquished the lead as it shut out Man Amigos in the last two innings for a 10-run mercy rule win.

Bruce Norita went perfect at the plate for Natibu, going 3-for-3. He had one triple and three RBIs. J.R. Suel and Dikito both went 2-for-3 at-bat and combined for five RBIs.

Other members of the champion team were Ken Kalen, Manny Evangelista, Ned Norita, Bobbie Norita, Mel Camacho, Marley Techur, and Lawrence Dikito.

Man Amigos assumed the bridesmaid role from Natibu having placed runner-up in the last two tournaments it had joined in.

Two weeks ago, Man Amigos lost to Brotherhood in the finals of the 2008 Budweiser BASA Softball League.

Three other teams joined this year's PIC Thanksgiving tourney with Nang placing third. The Miller Chill Boys and PIC were the two other participants in the weekend event.

Natibu won four cases of Miller Lite beer, 20 waterpark passes plus Magellan lunches for two at PIC, $200.00, and a case of Gatorade.

Man Amigos settled for two cases of Miller Lite beer, two cases of Gatorade and 20 waterpark passes at PIC, while Nang went home with two cases of Mickey's beer and one case of Gatorade.

PIC staff and tournament organizers thanked Pacific Trading Co. for supporting the annual event.

## NMIFA

From Page 28

ous school fields replacing wooden goals used by some schools.

Tan said for the past three years, NMIFA had spent $20,000 for building goals in various field.

"This (having goals) is the best way to encourage kids to go out on the field and play. Balls are east to find by borrowing from other players, but for goals, you need a standard one to keep the players safe," the NMIFA president said.

Aside from donating equipment to clubs and school teams, NMIFA being a regular member of the East Asian Football Federation will be able to provide timely clinics for coaches/teachers.

"Being a member of EAFF allows us to seek help from EAFF as far as educating our coaches with new techniques and other innovation in the sport through seminars and clinics," Tan said.

Meanwhile, NMIFA thanked the following for supporting the weekend's festivities: Triple J Wholesale, Subway, American Red Cross, NMI Chapter, Tan Holdings, Saipan Grand Hotel, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, PTI, and TakeCare.

## CPA

From Page 28

the game.

CPA added two more runs in the fifth, but failed to score in the last two innings for an 11-8 lead, entering the bottom of the seventh.

Second baseman Gary Cruz led off for No Zone and singled, but was later beaten to second base.

CPA relief pitcher Donald Pangelinan walked second batter Ned Norita. Bruce Norita was the third batter and hit the ball toward the centerfield. But outfielder Julian Matsutaro caught the fly ball, then quickly threw it to second baseman Manny Degracia, who tagged Ned Norita out for the double play.

### DLNR 6, CHC 5

The Department of Land and Natural Resources capitalized on Commonwealth Health Center's errors at the top of the seventh inning to pull off a 6-5 victory.

DNLR was behind, 3-5, after six complete innings, when CHC began having miscues at the top of the seventh allowing the former to score three runs.

DLNR preserved the win when CHC's first batter flied out, the second was beaten to second base and the fifth flied out to rightfield.

The win improved DLNR's record to 2-1, while CHC dropped to a 1-2 slate.

### Custom 8, SaipanCell 7

Customs broke into the win column after three games edging SaipanCell, 8-7.

Like in the DLNR-CHC tiff, Customs took advantage of SaipanCell's erratic defensive plays in the end to eke out a victory.

Customs scored its last three runs in the game on SaipanCell's errors taking an 8-4 lead, going into the top of the seventh inning.

SaipanCell must score at least four runs to extend the game, but made only three to hand the victory to Customs.

Customs secured the win when John Acosto flied out to centerfield.

SaipanCell absorbed its second loss in a row after three games.

### WOMEN'S
### CHC 9, CUC 8

In the lone women's game Friday night, CHC recovered from its debut loss with a close 9-8 win over CUC.

Shortstop Mercy Santos led CHC with her 3-for-3 at-bat. She scored two runs, a single and two RBIs.

A five-run bottom of the third put CHC in the lead, 6-2, and although CUC made repeated comeback bids, a three-run top of the sixth was enough for the former to preserve the victory.

## CHONG

From Page 28

holds a professional MMA record of 3-0 and defeated Toby Mesa in October for the heavyweight title of Preba Hao. He claims to be 67-0 in street fighting," said Alvarez.

San Nicolas sports a win-loss card of 6-1 entering his fight against Quinata.

Aside from the San Nicolas-Quinata matchup, Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation will also have 10 preliminary bouts and one semi main event. Action starts at 6:30pm at the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

One of the 10 preliminary bouts is the first ever MMA fight between women with independent fighter Jen Sambile taking on boxer Tara "Tarantula" Namauleg.

Sambile tips the scales at 123 lbs. and Namauleg is two pounds heavier at 125 lbs. Both are making their MMA debuts.

Namauleg saw action in the boxing match of Gorilla Warfare's Predator or Prey earlier in the year where she lost to Soledad "The Rebel" Tenorio via unanimous decision.

The rest of the tentative fight card for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is as follows:

■ Team Pwang's Eddie Paulis vs. Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (4-0) in the 130-lb. division;

■ Marianas Elite's Leeroy Sablan (2-2) vs. Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (4-1) in the 145-lb. division;

■ Marianas Elite's Derick "Pinchi" Rangamar (3-3) vs. Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios (5-2) in the 140-lb. division;

■ Predator Combat's Nate "The Terrible" Flores vs. Guam United Fight Team's Leo "The Assassin" Cing (5-4) in the 150-lb. division;

■ D.A.T. Gym's Joe Cabrera (0-1) vs. Trench Tech's Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (2-0) in the 155-lb. division;

■ Malesso Home Grown Fighters' Brian "The Shotgun" Howard (6-5) vs. Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (12-4) in the 150-lb. division;

■ Predator Combat's John "The Jackhammer" Borja (2-3) vs. Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo (3-2-1) in the 185-lb. division;

■ Team SSS Robert "Pitbull" Palacios (0-5) vs. Trench Tech's Jason "Rush" Tarkong (8-2) in the 175-lb. division; and

■ Team Zalaka's Ton "Xcalibur" Nekaifes (0-1) vs. Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial (12-5-2) in the semi main event.

Tickets for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation are on sale at Boarderline, 6-7-Zero Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Market, and Trench Tech Gym. General admission costs $25, while VIP is $40.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 9 | 2 | .818 | _ |
| New York | 6 | 4 | .600 | 2 1/2 |
| Toronto | 5 | 4 | .556 | 3 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 5 | .500 | 3 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 4 | 5 | .444 | 4 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 7 | 3 | .700 | _ |
| Atlanta | 6 | 3 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Miami | 5 | 5 | .500 | 2 |
| Charlotte | 3 | 6 | .333 | 3 1/2 |
| Washington | 1 | 6 | .143 | 4 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 8 | 2 | .800 | _ |
| Detroit | 7 | 3 | .700 | 1 |
| Chicago | 5 | 5 | .500 | 3 |
| Milwaukee | 5 | 6 | .455 | 3 1/2 |
| Indiana | 4 | 5 | .444 | 3 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 6 | 4 | .600 | _ |
| New Orleans | 5 | 4 | .556 | 1/2 |
| San Antonio | 4 | 5 | .444 | 2 |
| Dallas | 3 | 7 | .300 | 3 |
| Memphis | 3 | 7 | .300 | 3 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 6 | 4 | .600 | _ |
| Portland | 6 | 4 | .600 | _ |
| Utah | 6 | 4 | .600 | _ |
| Minnesota | 1 | 8 | .111 | 4½ |
| Oklahoma City | 1 | 9 | .100 | 5 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 7 | 1 | .875 | _ |
| Phoenix | 8 | 3 | .727 | 1/2 |
| Golden State | 4 | 6 | .400 | 4 |
| Sacramento | 4 | 7 | .364 | 4 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 1 | 8 | .111 | 6 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**
Toronto 107, Miami 96
Orlando 90, Charlotte 85
Dallas 124, New York 114, OT
Phoenix 104, Detroit 86
Denver 90, Minnesota 84
San Antonio 90, Sacramento 88

### NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Jets | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 89 | 221 |
| Miami | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 209 | 197 |
| New England | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 219 | 194 |
| Buffalo | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556 | 192 | 189 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1.00 | 244 | 131 |
| Indianapolis | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 224 | 224 |
| Jacksonville | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 212 | 210 |
| Houston | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 236 | 287 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 209 | 150 |
| Baltimore | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 222 | 180 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 6 | 0 | .333 | 172 | 194 |
| Cincinnati | 1 | 8 | 1 | .150 | 138 | 249 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 248 | 271 |
| San Diego | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 254 | 229 |
| Oakland | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 128 | 235 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 9 | 0 | .100 | 165 | 273 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Giants | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 292 | 170 |
| Dallas | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 230 | 229 |
| Washington | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 181 | 182 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 4 | 1 | .550 | 264 | 193 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 | 222 | 155 |
| Tampa Bay | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 219 | 160 |
| Atlanta | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 231 | 198 |
| New Orleans | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 266 | 249 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green Bay | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 274 | 209 |
| Chicago | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 240 | 231 |
| Minnesota | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 223 | 234 |
| Detroit | 0 | 10 | 0 | .000 | 173 | 308 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 289 | 228 |
| San Francisco | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 230 | 275 |
| Seattle | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 190 | 257 |
| St. Louis | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 144 | 317 |

**Yesterday's Games**
Denver 24, Atlanta 20
Miami 17, Oakland 15
Green Bay 37, Chicago 3
N.Y. Giants 30, Baltimore 10
Indianapolis 33, Houston 27
Carolina 31, Detroit 22
Philadelphia 13, Cincinnati 13, tie
New Orleans 30, Kansas City 20
Tampa Bay 19, Minnesota 13
Arizona 26, Seattle 20
San Francisco 35, St. Louis 16
Pittsburgh 11, San Diego 10
Tennessee 24, Jacksonville 14
Dallas 14, Washington 10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOCAL SCORES

**GENESIS CUP STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Daniel | 4 | 0 |
| Isaiah | 3 | 1 |
| Jeremiah | 1 | 3 |
| Ezekiel | 0 | 4 |

**BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS**

**Men's Division**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Freedom Air | 3 | 0 |
| DCCA | 3 | 0 |
| Legislature | 3 | 0 |
| Beach Boys | 3 | 0 |
| CPA | 3 | 0 |
| Law & Order | 2 | 1 |
| Joeten Motors | 2 | 1 |
| DLNR | 2 | 1 |
| Saipan Cell | 1 | 2 |
| No Zone | 1 | 2 |
| CHC | 1 | 2 |
| P & S | 1 | 2 |
| PSS | 1 | 2 |
| CUC | 1 | 2 |
| DEQ/CRM | 1 | 2 |
| POI | 1 | 2 |
| Customs | 1 | 2 |
| PIC | 0 | 3 |
| Mayors | 0 | 3 |
| Hopwood | 0 | 3 |

**Women's Division**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NMC | 2 | 0 |
| DCCA | 2 | 1 |
| CHC | 1 | 1 |
| Finance | 1 | 2 |
| CUC | 0 | 2 |

# 2008 NMIFA Youth Festival of Football

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players from the Commonwealth's four youth football clubs carry the CNMI flag during the parade of colors in the 2008 NMIFA Youth Festival of Football Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, center, introduces to the crowd NMIFA vice president Sue Knecht, who was among the NMIFA officials recognized in Saturday's festivities. Looking on is NMIFA secretary general Wes Bogdan, right.

The CNMI U14 National Team and the coaching staff pose for a group photo after they were given recognition for representing the Commonwealth in an international tournament last year.

A Matansa FC U6 striker heads towards the unguarded goal of the Independent FC.

Independent FC's Joel Punzalan, back row second left, thanked NMIFA for donating 15 pairs of shin guards and six pairs of goalie gloves to the club.

MP United pose for a group photo during the recognition ceremony for the football festival.

A representative of festival sponsor Subway, hands over a container holding sandwiches to festival coordinating chair Greg Borja, left.

A Paire FC U6 player makes a practice kick before their game against MP United.

Matansa FC's Michiko Tenorio goes for a kick in their game against Paire FC in the U12 division.

MP United, left, and Independent FC strikers chase the ball during their U12 match.

**Daniel keeps clean record in Genesis Cup**

Daniel reasserted its mastery over Jeremiah, notching a 90-78 win in their second meeting in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Eagles, Bengals play to 13-13 tie**

Donovan McNabb fumbled and threw three interceptions in regulation, and nearly had another pass picked off in overtime Sunday as the Eagles and Bengals played to a 13-13 tie. 24

# Natibu tops Thanksgiving tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No bridesmaid finish for Natibu this time, as it ruled the 15th Annual PIC Thanksgiving Softball Tournament held over the weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Natibu, which placed only second to No Ka Oi last year, took the title that eluded the team in the 14th season of the annual tournament whipping Man Amigos, 17-7, in Game 2 of the championship showdown.

Natibu entered the finals with a twice-to-beat advantage after sweeping its preliminary matches. But it could not win the tournament earlier when Man Amigos posted a 10-7 triumph in Game 1.

Man Amigos picked up where they left off at the start of the deciding Game 2 with Luis Iguel anchoring a four-run bottom of the first with his solo homer.

*See NATIBU on Page 26*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and supporters of Natibu pose for a group photo during the award ceremony for the 15th Annual PIC Thanksgiving Softball Tournament Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. Natibu defeated Man Amigos in the finals, 17-7.

# Chong out, first ever female fight set

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Manny "The Enforcer" Chong will not see action in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation and taking his place opposite Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas in Dec. 12's main event will be Reuben "The Booben" Quinata.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said Chong has begged off from taking part in the mixed martial arts event because of work, as he is detailed at Guam's Department of Public Safety.

"Manny Chong unfortunately had to pull out of the main event for Trech Warz IX: The Annihilation due to work-related issues. The Guam Police Department is very short in manpower and Mr. Chong can't get leave for the event. He also may be leaving off-island for a seminar of some sort for the department on that weekend. He was very sorry," said Alvarez in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Namauleg

Sambile

With Chong's unavailability, the 215-lb. San Nicolas of Marianas Elite will now face Quinata, who is slightly heavier at 225 lbs. and will be fighting out of Spike 22 Fight Academy Guam.

"Taking Manny Chong's place will be the current PXC Preba Hao heavyweight champion Reuben Quinata. He

*See CHONG on Page 26*

# CPA, Beach Boys remain unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Beach Boys and Commonwealth Ports Authority remained undefeated in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League after downing separate foes last week at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Beach Boys collided with the Mayor's Office Thursday night and cruised to a 19-3 win to improve their record to 3-0.

The victory kept the Beach Boys in the No. 1 spot tying Freedom Air, Legislature, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and CPA.

The Beach Boys broke the game wide open with a 12-run top of the fourth, scoring one run after another.

The Beach Boys' breakaway was highlighted by first baseman B.J. Sablan's two-run homer. Sablan went 3-for-3 at bat and had three RBIs.

Three Beach Boys sluggers went 2-or-3 at-bat and the team recorded a batting average of .444 after going 16-for-36.

The Mayor's Office scored only at the bottom of the first inning, making two runs off the Beach Boys' errors and one run off a John Guerrero single.

The Mayor's Office dropped to a 0-3 record and shares the bottom of the team standings with PIC and Hopwood.

CPA joined four other squads at the top after outclassing No Zone, 11-8, Friday.

After giving up three runs in the first inning, CPA's defense shut out No Zone in the next three to take a 9-3 lead.

No Zone tried to recover, but made only five runs in the fifth and sixth and a double play at the bottom of the seventh ended its chances to extend

*See CPA on Page 26*

# NMIFA eyes 1K youth strikers next year

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the successful 2008 NMIFA Youth Festival of Football held last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is eyeing to have 1,000 kids join the biennial event next year.

"With the success we had in the recent festival and with more and more kids joining and enjoying the sport of football, we are looking to have 1,000 kids participating in next year's festivities," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

The festival had friendly games in the U6, U8, U10, U12, and U15 age groups with matches starting as early as 8am through mid-afternoon.

The festival is patterned after Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots and Youth Program, which encourages officials, coaches, and players towards good sportsmanship and a fair play code of behavior.

"We started the festival early last year and from 50 kids, we now have more than 200. It is really encouraging to see many kids showing interest in football and their parents supporting them all the way," Tan added.

To lure more youth to join football, Tan said NMIFA through the help of private companies and individuals will continue to donate equipment and conduct clinics next year.

During Saturday's recognition ceremony, NMIFA donated 15 pairs of shin guards to each of the four youth clubs on Saipan. MP United, Matansa FC, Independent FC, and Paire FC also received six pairs of goalkeeper gloves.

NMIFA also had set up goals in vari-

*See NMIFA on Page 26*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Independent FC Orange and Matansa FC strikers run after the ball during their U6 match in the 2008 NMIFA Youth Festival of Football Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.